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MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY



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FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

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MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The Editor solicits the gift of articles, notes, photographs, and sketches, on the various aspects of Nature Lore, Natural Science, and Conservation of Natural Resources. If possible, articles should be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Photographs should be on glossy paper with data attached. The Society is a non-profit educational institution and we offer no remuneration for contributions to the *Bulletin*. The Society assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or illustrations submitted for its use.

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VOLUME XXXVII

FEBRUARY, 1953

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CONTENTS

Page

President's Page	46
Muskeget Island — July, 1952	<i>Elliott B. Church and Mary S. Shaub</i> 47
When East Meets West	<i>Robert P. Fox</i> 51
Christmas Bird Count — 1952	<i>C. Russell Mason</i> 57
Thumbnail Sketches of Our Directors	61
From the Editors' Sanctum	64
Winning Friends (Membership Notes)	65
Richard Alsop (1761-1815)	<i>Lawrence B. Romaine</i> 67
Notes from Our Sanctuaries	70
Reviews of Recent Acquisitions	76, 78, 80
From Our Correspondence	82, 83
Field Notes	84, 85, 86, 87, 88

Cover Illustration: EASTERN BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, J W. Worthington

The President's Page



Central Park, for the establishment of which much of the credit is due to our celebrated traveler, author, and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, is most valuable to all living or doing business in the greatest city of our country.

To us in Massachusetts, for all living and doing business in Boston, our Boston Common and Public Garden have similar claims.

In his report of "State Parks and Recreational Uses of State Forests in the United States," the Field Secretary of the Association of State Parks Raymond H. Torrey, in 1926 wrote as follows:

"But our settlers of North European stocks brought with them, among other innate racial characteristics, a desire for ordered civic life in which some kind of communal meeting place, for public intercourse and such relaxation as the times permitted, was required. So we find the earliest public parks in the American colonies were established in the settlements which eventually became some of our principal cities. Boston Common was perhaps the earliest example. Only fourteen years after the landing at Plymouth, and while few settlements existed about Massachusetts Bay, the Boston city fathers bought from William Blackstone, in 1634, for thirty pounds, the land now occupied by the Common. It was first used as a training field and common pasture, but in 1646 it was definitely made a park, altho it was not fenced or planted or given any artificial treatment until 1733. After the Revolution, in 1784, systematic development as a park commenced. In 1830 the cows were finally expelled."

The great institutions located in Central Park, that is to say, the long-established American Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts, are from their location and interest the natural guardians, and the Park is so large that the intrusion of their buildings may be excused.

With us here the Boston Common Society was alert in backing up the late Mayor Peters in his wise compromise with the need of traffic in the widening he advised and carried through on the Tremont Street and Park Street edges, and the wholly desirable widening of Boylston Street was carried through without too much loss to the Public Garden. It must be realized that in protecting these reservations and Commonwealth Avenue between its two lines of traffic there is constant pressure to forget about "the need and uses of open spaces," and cut down the trees in favor of above-ground and under-ground parking space.

Among the 8000 members of our Massachusetts Audubon Society there must be enough individuals interested in preventing any spoliation of our priceless heritage to aid materially in the protection of the Frog Pond and Public Garden Pond, the English elms planted by Mr. Peddock and nurtured by Mr. Parkman, and the trees in which the Rev. Mr. Wright celebrated the migration of birds in spring and fall. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." (John Philpott Curran)

Robert Leach

Muskeget Island - July, 1952

By ELLIOTT B. CHURCH AND MARY S. SHAUB



MARY S. SHAUB

Muskeget Island

The wind was southeast, unfavorable and increasing, but James Clinton Andrews, captain of the thirty-foot cabin cruiser *Sans Souci*, acquiesced to making the trip from Nantucket to Muskeget Island. Months ago we had selected July ninth as the time for our visit to this island and were pleased that we were favored with sparkling seas and photogenic clouds on that particular day. We also considered ourselves fortunate that we had engaged Mr. Andrews as our skipper, as he is the enthusiastic president of the Nantucket Bird Club, as well as an active member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and had wished to return to Muskeget to study the condition of the nesting colonies.

We signaled our departure from Old South Wharf and were soon winding our course through the closely spaced yachts anchored in Nantucket Harbor. After passing Brant Point Light we were out in the channel between the harbor jetties. With a fair wind astern, we moved along at about six knots, keeping well offshore to avoid the dangerous shoals. We skirted the north shore of Nantucket, dotted with the typical gray shingled summer cottages, and along the extension of the shore that culminates in Eel Point. The shoal water of Tuckernuck Bank made it necessary to keep well out, but a number of houses were clearly visible on this low-lying island that is practically a continuation of Smith Point, the most westerly part of Nantucket. About three miles northwest of Tuckernuck lies little Muskeget, the eastern end of which was fairly well protected by shoals. As small waves were breaking on the shallows, we avoided these and found a satisfactory anchorage one hundred yards off the northeast shore. Soundings indicated about four feet, although the unusual clarity of the water led one to estimate a lesser depth here. We had no difficulty in landing with the skiff.

Our first impressions of Muskeget did not coincide with the description which Dr. Gerritt S. Miller recorded in the *Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History*, Vol. 27, 1896-97, in which he describes the island as a "mere dry sand bar." Today the island is well covered with a variety of beach



MARY S. SHAUG

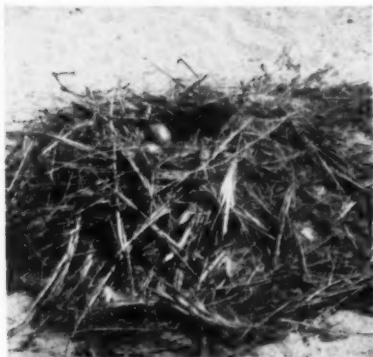
E. B. Church and J. C. Andrews

plants, coarse beach grass, *Ammophila arundinacea*, predominating and extending to high-water mark. The next most common plant is the lush succulent *Arenaria*, or beach sandwort, which grows in circular masses and is found in all parts of the island. The succulent sea rocket, *Cakile edentula*, is also abundantly distributed, as is the seaside goldenrod. The general impression, then, is one of extensive areas of green interspersed with sandy swales that are generally rather barren.

The main configurations of Muskeget change so rapidly that even the maps of the island shown on the *U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart* of 1943 and the *U. S. Geological Survey Tuckernuck Island Quadrangle*, edition of 1944, do not show its present

form in correct detail. Early eighteenth century maps confirm the geological probability that Muskeget was once larger than it now is, and that it was morainial land analogous to Saul's Hills on Nantucket and resembled the part of Nantucket that lies along the line of the outer Wisconsin moraine, which extended from the east side of Martha's Vineyard southeastward over the site of Muskeget and Tuckernuck Islands to and beyond Nantucket. In 1892 the island was recorded as being about two miles long and about a half mile across at its widest part. At present its over-all length, including a newly formed point on the northeast, is one and one half miles, and its greatest width a half mile. The general shape is rectangular, with a shallow harbor formed by the southerly extensions of Jenkins Point on the east and South Point on the west. The latter, which is merely a slender tongue of sand, has been reduced considerably in length in the last few years and its position moved slightly eastward with the elimination of the small pond at the extreme west end of the island. The former small harbor is now largely a sedge-filled marsh. As a result of rather rapid retreating of the western shore line, the drop-off is quite abrupt and the root-filled bank indicates the recent recession of the shore. A wreck covered with sea moss on the western beach is mute evidence of the dangers of rapid tides and numerous shoals in Muskeget Channel.

Although the maximum altitude of the island is a mere fifteen feet, one is not conscious of a monotonous terrain. The surface is irregularly ridged and furrowed, the general trend of the depressions running roughly east and west. The hollows that formerly contained fresh-water ponds in the eastern part of the island are now largely filled with narrow and broad-leaved cattails and



MARY S. SHAUB

Nest of Herring Gull

tion we were unable to make a very impressive list. Poison ivy and bayberry predominated in the central part of the island, with here and there wild roses, dusty miller, peppergrass, beach plum, sensitive fern, wild lettuce, and thistle. A more careful study would undoubtedly reveal a much greater variety of plants, especially in the moister places.

Muskeget is best known among naturalists for its Beach Mouse, *Microtus breweri* Baird. This species, which is closely related to a field mouse that is widely distributed in New England, was described in 1857. It was found to be very abundant in 1869 and noted intermittently since that time. Its individuality has been explained by the long separation of Muskeget Island from the neighboring islands. We did not find it but did note several of its burrows, which are characteristically shallow. Other mammals are reported to be absent, but the bird population is outstanding.

When one approaches the island, Herring and Laughing Gulls fly out in large numbers overhead. The shore in all directions is lined with them. On landing one can easily find Herring Gull nests close to the shore, although the preferred locations are in the furrows a short distance inland and preferably not in the beach grass. Although the air seems to be filled with thousands of Herring Gulls wheeling and screaming, but rarely darting close to one's head, the number of nests seems surprisingly small. In many sections of the island the nests of dry beach grass are closely spaced, about ten feet apart, but in general the distribution is wider. It would seem that the densely populated sections are the northeast, north, and west parts. Two or three eggs were noted frequently in the large nests measuring a foot or more in diameter. However, pinkish marks were observed on many of the eggs, indicating the spraying program of the Fish and Wildlife Service which is attempting to reduce the Herring Gull population by coating the eggs with a preparation designed to keep oxygen from passing through the shell. On the other hand, many eggs must have hatched several weeks before our visit, as numerous young of all sizes were found hiding under clumps of grass or ivy, or running aimlessly in all directions, or darting into the sea, where they can manage well at an early age even in the swift current of the tides. The number of newly hatched young and immatures still unable to fly was considerably greater along the west and northwest sections of the island. The Laughing

a variety of sedges and rushes. The shore line is rather straight along the northern shore but varied in irregularity on the east and south. Windrows of eel grass attest the large growth of this plant in Nantucket Sound. The sand is generally coarse and shifting, but along the west shore it is finer and contains considerable quantities of ferro-magnesium minerals.

With the exception of trees, which are absent from the island, the flora has been reported as including most of the sand-loving plants found on the coast of southern New England. However, during a day's cursory examina-



MARY S. SHAUD

Nest of Laughing Gull

were smaller. The undesirability of penetrating further into the poison ivy deterred a continuing search for more Laughing Gull nests.

A few Double-crested Cormorants, Black-backed Gulls (both adult and immature), several Red-winged Blackbirds, one Savannah Sparrow, Black-crowned Night Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, and one Barn Swallow completed our rather hasty listing for the day.

The Common Tern situation here needs mention, especially in view of the active efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service to bring back this bird by curtailing the extension of the Herring Gull's breeding range. It was encouraging to note fairly large numbers, certainly several hundred, circling over South Point. For many years Muskeget had the largest and most famous tern colony of the northeast, and when William Brewster first visited the island in 1870 terns were exceedingly abundant. However, the plumage was being actively sought for the millinery trade, and fishermen regularly collected the eggs during the summer months. In the 1880's legislation was enacted to protect the terns, and by 1902 the numbers had increased to their former abundance. At this time Laughing Gulls began to compete with the Common Terns, and by 1925 the latter became greatly reduced. The Herring Gull then began to push the Laughing Gull from this nesting site. The present situation is encouraging with both Laughing Gulls and Common Terns on the increase. It will be interesting to follow the developments in this colony as the nesting activity of the Herring Gull is curtailed, and it is hoped that the public will continue to respect Muskeget as one of our finest breeding grounds in the northeast for the Common Tern and Laughing Gull.

Prevent Bird Injuries

Miss Rosella S. Ames, of Marshfield, offers what may be a preventive of birds injuring themselves by flying against windows near feeding stations. She writes us that Mrs. Thaxter Anderson, of Marshfield, has a breezeway which is glassed in and she has had many birds injured there. "Since she sprayed with the plastic spray used for Christmas decorations on windows she has had no such casualties. . . . She does not spray on enough to shut out the sunlight — only enough to eliminate the hazardous reflections." This plan might also be employed when belligerent male birds attempt to defend their nesting territories by "fighting their own reflections" in windowpanes.

When East Meets West

BY ROBERT P. FOX



J. F. DERMID FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Oregon Juncos

"What is the spring bird migration like in other parts of our country than New England?" This question, which I have asked myself when watching the ducks winging north in March or the hordes of lively warblers flitting past in May, received an answer when I was fortunate enough to spend the spring of 1952 in Denver, Colorado. A curious mixture of east and west, with its mountains and plains, eastern Colorado and the mile-high Denver area in particular offered a fine vantage point for observing the annual flight of some two hundred and fifty types of birds.

In early March I found the resident Red Crossbills already nesting in the pines of the foothills. The dull red males had been bringing seeds to their olive-drab mates for some time now, and a few of the first broods were hatched and flying. These unsuspicious finches were similar to those that periodically invade Massachusetts and occasionally breed there. The crossbills from their nest high in a yellow pine looked out on much of the bird life now on the way to summer homes. Flocks of Pygmy Nuthatches moved through the pines, breaking the silence with their constant and varied chatter, while their larger relative the White-breasted Nuthatch was heard at intervals.

In Colorado, as in Massachusetts, some late snows still covered the ground in places, making spring seem far off, though suggestions of the seasonal activities among the birds could be easily noticed. An occasional burst of song from a brilliant wine-colored Cassin's Purple Finch or an oft-repeated whistle of quite human quality from a Townsend's Solitaire indicated the approach of the nesting time. In a Douglas fir near the crossbill's nest, a Chickadee

perched, calling gaily until a flash of blue and black and a series of grating squeaks announced the arrival of a marauding Long-crested Jay.

At a near-by brook, water from the fast-melting snows was bubbling and swirling past boulders and under ice bridges formed by the cold of the previous night. In one of these pools I saw a small bird swimming under the frigid water. Quickly the bird hopped out onto an ice cake and fluffed itself out until it resembled a feathery softball. It was very dark-colored, with apparently waterproof plumage and curious white eyelids which showed plainly when it blinked its eyes frequently. I had hardly taken a good look at this little Dipper, or Water Ouzel, before it dived off the ice cake and was lost from view until it came up on a rock some moments later. Soon its nest would be built, so near the water on a big boulder or cliffside that spray would keep its mossy exterior moist and green. This unusual bird is found along brooks wherever they remain open during the winter.

Returning to the hillside, I found that the disturbing jay had moved on and I soon espied an approaching flock of juncos. There are several different species of junco which winter in Colorado, with confusing subspecies usually unidentifiable in the field. This group alighted on a grassy spot and in some mountain mahogany bushes where I could look them over carefully. There were a few black-headed male birds with red-brown backs and rusty sides, *Junco oreganus*, with a larger number of the duller colored females and first-year birds. Another species, the Pink-sided Junco, *J. mearnsi*, with gray replacing the black head of the preceding species, was the most abundant bird of the flock. Among the Slate-colored Juncos I saw occasional birds flashing more white in their tails as they flitted in search of seeds. On closer look these seemed to be White-winged Juncos, *J. aikeni*. High up on the hillside, behind the crossbill nest, I heard the rolling trill of a junco's breeding song, indicating the presence of a pair of Gray-headed Juncos, *J. caniceps*, a species much like the Slate-colored Junco but with a rusty spot on the back. The male offered a small twig to its mate, a sign that this species would be raising a family here soon, while the other species of juncos were nesting far to the north. This pair of Gray-heads had recently arrived, not from the south as migrants should, but from the plains to the east some two thousand feet lower than Denver in altitude.

Following closely this first spring arrival, the azure-blue Mountain Bluebird appeared, claiming a nesting site in a near-by yellow pine. High overhead the Bald Eagle and the commoner Golden Eagle rode the updrafts as they moved along with occasional Red-tailed Hawks and Duck Hawks, all migrating to their summer homes among the cliff-walled canyons of Colorado.

Down on the plains spring had already arrived in this month of March. Wintering Robins were joined by southern reinforcements, notably the Red-wings and a few Song Sparrows, and all sang happily in the warm sunlight. While the male Red-wings, awaiting the arrival of their mates, claimed their individual homesites in the cattails, the near-by ponds saw a flurry of activity. As March gave way to April, these ponds lost their winter visitors which had fed upon their plant life during the colder months. Hundreds of Shovellers, with their green heads, reddish sides, and white breasts, cast vivid reflections as they swam by in early spring, but they were now leaving for their breeding grounds. Gadwalls, another species rare to New England, were seen in flocks of twenty to fifty as they restlessly awaited their northward journey. Although the Mallards had all left by now, I saw Pintails, Baldpates, Lesser Scaup,

Buffle-heads, and an occasional Loon or Golden-eye on the larger ponds. I also saw many Canvas-backs and Redheads, but the Ring-necked Duck was most rare. Long after the Canada Geese had departed and after the height of the migration of the Mallards, Gadwalls, and Pintails, the teal put in an appearance, first the Green-wings in March, followed by the Blue-wings in April, and lastly, in early May, by the handsome Cinnamon Teal, reflecting in its plumage all the rich chestnut of the spring sunset.

While it was still April I explored the bird life at higher altitudes. From the ponds and dry prairies near Denver I passed to the next life zone in the hills, the home of the crossbills, covered with fir, scrub oak, and yellow pine, and there I found the Western Bluebird, flashing its chestnut back-patch and sky-colored wings, following the coming of the azure-breasted Mountain Bluebird.

The woodpeckers which had arrived were perhaps the most interesting birds. A short rattle of pecks followed by a deliberate series of raps tapering off was a characteristic of the Natalie's (Williamson's) Sapsucker. The mated pair were quite unlike each other in appearance. The female is a ladder-backed bird, with a brown head, brown barred sides, and a yellow belly. The male is most handsome, with a black and yellow motif set off by a red chin-patch, two white areas on the sides of the head, and a large white wing-patch and rump-patch. His conspicuous yellow belly and solid black back are quite different from the plumage of the female.

On the ground beneath the sapsucker tree I found some early mountain flowers, including the Pasqueflower, looking somewhat like our garden crocus, and the strawberry cactus, whose small but brilliant red flowers contrasted with the still-brown grass and remaining snowdrifts. A flash of brown along the ground proved to be a large squirrel, which stopped, looked back, and flipped its long ears, and in another second the Tufted-eared Squirrel was gone into a moist gully filled with budding cottonwoods and the famous but not very prevalent Colorado blue spruce.

On this early April trip into the mountains to the west of Denver I drove still higher to an area where the vegetation was similar to that of eastern Canada. Cottonwoods had been replaced by aspens and the yellow pines by lodgepole, the misshapen foxtail, and limber pines, and by Engelmann spruce. This remarkable change as I arose from the dry plains near Denver to the snowfields of the alpine areas in the mountains took but a few moments in Colorado, but a similar environmental change in the East would have meant a trip of hundreds of miles. This accounted for the great variety among the nesting birds. Just below tree line, deep in the stillness of the spruces, resided the Rocky Mountain Jay, a cousin of the eastern Canada Jay, silent now with its nesting cares. Deep snow still covered the ground, but the warmth of the midday sun was rapidly bringing spring to this high altitude.

The newly arrived migrants from the lower slopes sang their nesting songs. These birds have vertical migrations up and down the mountain slopes rather than north and south migrations like the summer residents of our familiar New England. The silence was broken by the calls of the western race of the Brown Creeper, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets fluttered above some willows half-buried in the snow and gave their beautiful spring song. The Pine Grosbeaks had an even more delightful flutelike song, a series of slurring notes which first descended only to ascend again toward the end.



JOHN B. MAY

Clark's Nutcracker

found the birds. What was omitted in my directions was the fact that without snowshoes or skis a person cannot leave the plowed roadway. Since I was a novice at snowshoeing, there was plenty of trouble. My shoes had a fiendish trick of slipping sideways under the crust of snow and I found myself hip-deep in snow with little way to extract the webbed shoe I was wearing.

Next came the problem of getting through the woods to the scattered birds. In summer it is difficult because of the density of the forest, but now the trees were half-buried, and I literally walked through them while making more noise, seemingly, than a herd of elk such as is occasionally seen at this season. As if that were not enough, the altitude and consequent thinness of air was extremely bothersome. After each few struggling steps I had to stop and catch my breath. That continual drumming which I heard was not a species of grouse but merely my own heart working overtime!

Returning to Denver the last of April I found all the birders preparing for the big May flight of migrants. Most interesting of the few summer residents which were already present was another woodpecker, the Lewis's, named, like the Clark's Nutcracker, for one of the leaders of the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition up the Missouri and to Oregon in 1804-6. This weird-looking creature resembles a small crow in flight, but a closer view reveals it to have a pink belly, a speckled white collar, a purple-white breast, and a regal purple-crimson throat-patch extending up to the bill and eye. Many a New England birder would be tempted to trade in his bird glasses should he see such a strange-appearing animal on Boston Common some spring day!

As a typical New England birder, I was due for many surprises this month of May. Prominent among them was the "Necktie Bird," as the Magpie was locally known because of its long and extremely colorful tail which drags behind the bird like a trailing cravat. The Magpie replaces the Common Crow in parts of Colorado and is a most striking bird of white and iridescent black. Its bulky nest is often placed in a tall cottonwood and may later provide a foundation for the home of a Swainson's or Red-tailed Hawk or even a Long-eared Owl.

Red-headed Woodpeckers loudly proclaimed the fact that they had taken up residence in one of the abundant cottonwoods, whether in a tree-filled valley in eastern Colorado or beside Barr Lake, a favorite birding spot in the

Suddenly all songs ceased as a Duck Hawk dived down from a mountain crag, but soon a Red-naped Sapsucker broke the silence as it flew past down the slope to the pine forest below. And, lastly, I saw a member of the crow family which, like the Rocky Mountain Jay, is noisy in summer but was quiet now with nesting cares, the Clark's Nutcracker.

My search for the Nutcracker was not as simple as it sounds. I had been told to go up to Echo Lake, elevation over 10,000 feet, and to wander around until I

Denver Basin. From the entrance of his home in the latter region a handsome Redhead looked down on the orderly migration of the birds and the less orderly birders racing back and forth for their first glimpses of a Myrtle or an Audubon's Warbler. It saw still more confusion when a Grinnell's Water-Thrush sang from an alder thicket and a Bell's Vireo spat out its emphatic call from near at hand. No doubt the Redhead wondered why there was so much excitement over one small bird like the Macgillivray's Warbler skulking along in a brush pile beside duck-covered Barr Lake, its flashing yellow belly contrasted with its olive back and black head.

But what was not realized on this warm mid-May day was that while the migration was at its height, no floods of mixed migrants flitted in favored locations as in Massachusetts. Rather, a good day would find a new migrant every quarter of a mile or so, but seldom would one observe a dozen species of migrant land birds or as many as fifty individuals. These western "waves" were a decided surprise to an Easterner, though waves in a different sense did invade the Denver area in May, for early in the month I saw the fields flooded with hundreds of small black birds with white wing-patches, the newly arrived Lark Buntings. As soon as the migrating flocks dispersed the males began to sing, a Song Sparrowlike tinkle, as they soared up into the air and then fluttered down some thirty feet to their nesting sites. Other bird waves included several sparrows, with the Whitethroats, Chippies, Brewer's, and Clay-colored each having its day of abundance. A keen ear could detect the buzzy note of the Clay-colored, which helped determine a difficult field identification problem.

If a New Englander becomes lonesome for familiar eastern birds, he need only travel some one hundred and fifty miles east across the Great Plains to the river valleys of extreme eastern Colorado. It is true that Yellow-throats, Meadowlarks, several swallows, rails and other marsh birds, and shore birds may be found near the Denver ponds, but there seemed to be something lacking in the open woods and the vast fields of the plains. I ventured to the eastern border and, when I drove into the elm-bordered streets of Ouray, received a "birder's welcome," a chilling three-day northeast storm. Undaunted by the rains, however, I entered a steep-sided gulch to be greeted by a chorus of Yellow Warblers, a bird which is not very common around Denver but was abundant here. Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, and House Wrens all crowded around to welcome us. Veeries and other thrushes sang and the warblers were such as might be found in any thicket in the Connecticut or Sudbury valleys. At the end of the day I had a list of more than one hundred species which might have been seen in a dozen different New England areas, differing only in that my list included a few strictly western species. Some of the western tinge was implanted by the Avocets parading around and the Long-billed Curlew which flew across a pond through a throng of insect-catching Black Terns.

In Massachusetts I might have been queried by an inquisitive policeman or the worried owner who found me staring at an apple tree from behind a rosebush, but in Colorado the adventure took a more rural turn, for I was chased by a bull and, still worse, was mired in the middle of a flat and very deserted mud road. A stop for a Grasshopper Sparrow or a Dickcissel singing on a fence entailed wheels spinning without traction on the clayey surface, and even walking was difficult and indeed dangerous.



R. T. CONGDON FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Western Tanager Feeding Young

Back at Denver for the later migrants, I found the Sharp-tailed Grouse and Mountain Plover on the high plains. A look around the foothills disclosed the crossbills still nesting, now accompanied by some brilliant-hued neighbors. The Lazuli Bunting, with its blue back matching the sky, sang from a yellow pine to its neighboring Western Tanager, the latter resplendent in yellow and black with a dash of white on the wing and a red face as if it were blushing at its own ostentation. The tanager was rivaled by the noisy Black-headed Grosbeak, the brown, black, and white analogue of our eastern Rosebreast. Last, but not least colorful, the Bullock's Oriole should be included among the most showy birds of the region. This oriole seemed more orange than its eastern relative the Baltimore Oriole.

All too soon I bade adieu to the towering Rockies and left Colorado. The spring had ended and the fields near Denver had turned from winter's brown to summer's green. The foothills of pine had lost their snow, and even the Canadian and alpine areas had put forth their extravagant but short-lived bloom. The birds were all nesting, each in its own altitudinal environment. It was a "springtime in the Rockies" to be long remembered.

Brookline Bird Club Trips

Open to Members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

February 7, all day. Rockport and Cape Ann. Mr. Lewis, CRYstal 9-1355-R. Afternoon, Leverett Pond to Arboretum. Miss Lawson, CAPItol 7-5618.

February 14, all day. Automobile trip to South Shore. Miss Barry, MELrose 4-5888. Afternoon, Spy Pond and Mystic Lakes. Mrs. Heston, REading 2-2741-W.

February 21, all day. Newburyport and vicinity. Mr. Argue, KENmore 6-3604.

Where names of leaders are not supplied, this information will be available at Audubon House (KENmore 6-4895) after February 1.

Afternoon, Nahant. Mrs. Boot, LYnn 8-0257.

February 23, all day. Rockport.

February 28, all day. Ipswich and vicinity. Mr. Wade, SToneham 6-0566-W. Afternoon, Arnold Arboretum.

March 7, all day. Nahant. Mr. Kelly, LYnn 2-9024. Afternoon, Marblehead. Mr. Kelly.

Christmas Bird Count — 1952

BY C. RUSSELL MASON

The warm fall and early winter season was reflected in the Christmas bird counts throughout New England. Except for a few species, winter birds in their usual numbers were lacking, while there was a considerable variety of lingering birds that normally would be further south at this time of year. There were more Baltimore Orioles reported at feeding stations than ever before in December, and an extraordinary number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found. Dickcissels with flocks of House Sparrows at the feeders may promise return of this bird to the eastern seaboard during the breeding season.

Laurence B. Fletcher and Nathan W. Bates conducted a Christmas count in the Cohasset region and found thirty-two species, including Pine Siskins and many eiders off the glades. Since eiders have been fewer in numbers in many coastal sections this year, this observation is of particular interest. This was the twenty-sixth year for the count in this area.

A good record for an inland point was established by a Wellesley group led by Douglas B. Sands and six other leaders, with forty-one junior high and senior high students. In the morning hours they clocked thirty-three species, 1492 individuals, including Chat, Pine Warbler, Towhee, and Hermit Thrush, as well as a Screech Owl caught alive in its roosting hole. The most numerous bird found was the Blue Jay, with a total of 252 individuals.

The Belmont region count, for many years under the leadership of Samuel Robbins, produced thirty-eight species, including a fair number of waterfowl on the open ponds, while lingerers included Bluebirds for the first time.

The Newburyport count, conducted for the fourteenth season over the same territory, under the direction of the Essex County Ornithological Club, produced a total species list of seventy-five, thirty-three of which had been reported on all fourteen counts. Over the years 132 species and subspecies have been found in this territory on the Christmas count. New birds this year included 4 Baldpate, 2 Virginia Rails, 1 Forster's Tern, 1 Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1 Chat, and 2 Seaside Sparrows. This was the second-best year, the previous high being eighty-five in 1951.

The count taken in the Andover, Massachusetts, region on December 31 produced thirty-three species, equalling the previous record, and the highlights were 2 Bob-whites found in the State Forest in North Andover (where Quail were liberated in the fall of 1952 for field trials), 3 Snow Geese noted by Albert Retelle flying over Lawrence, and 50 Redpolls.

A small group made a visit to Maine for bird-counting. December 26-28, and Oscar M. Root, of North Andover, reports the total species listed for the York-to-Wells section on December 26 as thirty-nine. This included 21 Sanderlings at Wells Beach, 50 Holboell's Grebes at Wells, 320 American Eiders in three flocks at Wells Beach (the only eiders seen in three days in Maine), a flock of 3000 mixed blackbirds and Starlings in York, 84 Common Redpolls, and 21 Pine Siskins; also 2 Western Palm Warblers at Ogunquit, a rare bird in Maine at any season. The following day twenty-seven species were found from Phipps Point to Newagen, the highlight being 7 Meadowlarks at Phippsburg. On December 28, at Small Point and Popham Beach, Maine, thirty-eight species were found, including 5 Pintails, 2 Green-winged Teal, a Bald Eagle, and a Rough-legged Hawk at Popham Beach, and 1 Dovekie and 1 White-throated Sparrow at Small Point.

Due to good coverage and favorable weather conditions, with ponds and streams still open, the Northampton group, under Professor Samuel A. Eliot, Jr., clocked the largest Christmas count in history for that section — fifty-two species, including ten water birds. The rarest find for the region was probably the single Red-breasted Merganser seen on the Connecticut River, but there were also lingerers, such as Baltimore Orioles and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, as well as 3 Dickcissels and a Migrant Shrike. A good flock of Mourning Doves at Arcadia Sanctuary added "cream" to the list.

At Greenfield, in the upper Connecticut Valley, Glenn Weeks and his party reported thirty-seven species, including a Catbird found on the Whitmore's farm at Sunderland, and among the winter birds were a Northern Shrike and 450 Redpolls.

The Cape Ann count, conducted for the nineteenth year, produced seventy-nine species, the best count by seven over any previous year. Good weather and coverage turned up many lingering species, like Thrasher, Catbird, Chat, and Yellow-throat, as well as 2 Mockingbirds, though the scarcity of wintering birds resulted in missing the Guillemot for the first time. A White-crowned Sparrow which had been a regular visitor to the feeding station of Miss Frances Burnett in Manchester was a new bird for the list, as was Blue-winged Teal recorded by Ralph Lawson. Over the nineteen-year period 134 species and subspecies have been reported, but only twenty-six of them turned up every year; twenty-eight have been found only once; and thirty-four have been recorded only two to five times.

Members of the Hoffmann Bird Club of Pittsfield participated in two Christmas bird counts on December 27. One group covered the Great Barrington-Sheffield area of southern Berkshire County. The weather was mild but windy, and there was no snow and little ice, but the number of birds found was smaller than in previous years. Twenty species and 532+ individuals were found by eight members. The best discovery was not a bird at all but a Red Fox, which was watched for some time at close range. Among the birds checked were 3 Red-tailed Hawks, a Kingfisher, and a flock of about 42 Redpolls.

Mrs. Ruth I. Derby and Charles H. Derby conducted a survey of fifty miles by automobile in the same area, and their sixteen species included a Pileated Woodpecker, a Winter Wren, a Northern Shrike, and a Meadowlark.

In Pittsfield, although Onoto lake was still partly open, Pontoosuc and the smaller bodies of water were frozen, and there was scattered snow on the ground. Three members of the club covered the area, while seven reported from feeders near their homes. Among the sixteen species and more than six hundred individuals was an Oregon Junco, seen at leisure from as close as eight feet. The bird was discovered with Slate-colored Juncos by Mrs. James Keith, and it was seen also by Miss Edna Dunbar. The group found a surprising number of Tree Sparrows, 125, but only 1 Song Sparrow, and 103 Evening Grosbeaks were tabulated.

The Rhode Island Audubon Society, covering intensively the same area as last year — Newport County, Rhode Island, and extending into Westport, Massachusetts — broke all Christmas count records for this part of the country in recording 128 species. The more interesting birds found were a Mockingbird, a Snowy Owl, Razor-billed Auks, a King Rail, 8 Purple Sandpipers, and six species of owls.

Fourteen members of the Allen Bird Club of Springfield covering the Stebbins Refuge and adjacent land on December 27 listed twenty-nine species, including, in addition to the usual common wintering birds, 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, a Flicker, and a half dozen Robins.

As an example of paucity of winter bird life, Dr. Stuart K. Harris, of Boston University, in covering a section in the New Hampshire mountains found only five wintering species — Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Grosbeak, and Ruffed Grouse, the last-named counted only by tracks in the snow.

As usual the Cape Cod count, centering in the Chatham region, produced, on December 28, the highest species list for the State, 101. Included were 4000 Canada Geese and 700 Brant off the Brewster shores. The duck count was fairly low, since, with the hunting season still on, the birds were scattered, although 50 Green-winged Teal, 11 Canvas-backs, and 240 Ruddies were listed. Eleven Snow Geese flying along the Brewster shore and one among a flock of Canadas at Orleans Town Cove added spice to the bird population. Winter birds from the north were rather sparse, though Pine Siskins, Redpolls, Longspurs, and Snow Buntings were recorded. The greatest additions to the list, however, were species wintering that at this season might have been far to the south. They included Carolina and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Catbirds, Pine Warblers, Chat, Yellow-throats, Baltimore Orioles, Thrashers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Towhees, and Chipping (60), White-throated (43), Field (43), Fox, Seaside, Sharp-tailed, and White-crowned (1) Sparrows. Surprisingly, among the Western Palm Warblers was found one Yellow Palm (the following day observers found three Yellow Palms among a flock of 14 Palm Warblers in Eastham). A count of 44 Bob-whites indicates that this bird is holding its own on the Cape.

A trip to sea off Monomoy on December 27 revealed fewer eiders than found last year. Only 150,000 were estimated, compared with the half million of last season. Perhaps the huge number of badly oiled eiders found along the beaches, and a similar condition last winter, explains in part their diminution in numbers. In the same area were noted 26,000 White-winged Scoters and 5000 American Scoters.

A count in Provincetown and Wellfleet on December 27 produced a limited list but included 10 Black-bellied Plover, as well as a flock of 45 Siskins and 15 Redpolls at Provincetown airport, and many wintering Flickers.

The Bird Club of the Children's Museum, under the leadership of Miss Miriam Dickey, did an eight-hour bird count on December 24 at the Arnold Arboretum, Sargent Estate, and about Jamaica and Leverett's ponds, clocking thirty-three species, including some interesting ducks which remained on the ponds prior to the freeze-up.

Thirty-two members of the Brookline Bird Club, carrying out their count in the Salem-Lynn-Beverly region, listed sixty-three species of birds, including a variety of ducks along the shore and on local ponds. They also found Purple Sandpipers at both Marblehead and Nahant. In addition to several lingering summer birds, they had the best lot of winter finches reported in eastern Massachusetts, including Evening and Pine Grosbeaks and Red Crossbill, as well as Fox Sparrow and Dickcissel.

Philip B. Heywood, of Worcester, reports that he and Mrs. Heywood found twenty-one species on their Christmas count, January 1, with 439 in-

dividual birds. The count followed the same pattern of lingering species that prevailed throughout Massachusetts, including 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 6 Robins, and fewer than normal winter birds (except 10 Evening Grosbeaks).

The South Shore Bird Club, conducting their seventh Christmas bird count on December 27 over the same area as last year, and with only nine persons participating, turned up their best record to date for number of species — seventy-one. This included over 9000 Greater Scaups but only 627 Red-breasted Mergansers, with the count of this latter species and Golden-eye considerably below par. The group also located five Short-eared Owls and had a good mixture of lingering species, such as Long-billed Marsh Wren and Field Sparrows (5), as well as typical winter birds, such as Redpolls and Purple Sandpipers.

Miss Ferguson Joins Audubon Staff



Recently we welcomed to the Audubon staff as an assistant in the business office Miss Sarah Locke Ferguson, of Marblehead, Massachusetts. Miss Ferguson attended public schools in Marblehead, the Shore Country Day School in Beverly, and she was graduated from the Mary C. Wheeler School in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1951.

After doing volunteer hospital work in the summer of 1951, she joined the Vincent Club in their annual show and also attended the Pierce Secretarial School. In April, 1952, she left for a four months' tour of Europe, visiting France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Austria, Holland, and England.

Miss Ferguson's hobbies are skiing and tennis, and she also enjoys mountain climbing.

Audubon Field Trips

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15. Trip to Cape Ann for winter birds. Chartered bus will leave Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, at 8:15 A.M., returning to Audubon House at 7:00 P.M. Bring lunch. Fare and guide fee, \$3.00. Fee for those using private cars and following busses, 75 cents per person. Reservations should be made a week in advance. Cancellations cannot be accepted after noon on Friday, February 13. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. John I. Beattie, C. Russell Mason, and Davis H. Crompton.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29. Trip to Sudbury Valley. Chartered bus will leave Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, at 8:15 A.M., returning to Audubon House at 7:00 P.M. Bring lunch. Fare and guide fee, \$3.00. Fee for those using private cars and following busses, 75 cents per person. Reservations should be made a week in advance. Cancellations cannot be accepted after noon on Friday, March 27.

Thumbnail Sketches of Our Directors



MISS LOUISA HUNNEWELL, of Wellesley, comes from a family distinguished in that locality. Her grandmother's family, whose name was Welles, for whom the Town of Wellesley was named, came to that region from Connecticut before the Revolution.

Miss Hunnewell was elected to the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1932 and has at all times maintained a lively interest in all of its activities. She and her sister, Mrs. Sydney M. Williams, were instrumental in having the Society represented by an exhibit at the Annual Flower Show in Boston, and both, as members of the Permanent Flower Show Committee of the Board, work each year with the Audubon staff to make our exhibit both attractive and instructive.

Although Miss Hunnewell follows most closely the work of the Society in its educational projects, particularly through the various sanctuaries, she has also served capably on the Calendar-Chart Committee. She has been influential, too, in securing many new members.

Miss Hunnewell's early education was received in private schools in Boston, and much of her life has been spent in travel to many parts of the world. Many of our readers will remember her interesting article in the *Bulletin* for November, 1941, in which she described her experiences in the New Zealand Rain Forest, and she recalls particularly her pleasure there in seeing the keas, or hawk-billed parrots, spectacular birds of that part of the world which appear on one of New Zealand's postage stamps. Three times Miss Hunnewell's travels have taken her to South America, once in the early days when one had to cross the Andes by muleback, following a chain of Chilean lakes, a feat not necessary today when motor roads traverse the country or when airplanes will make a quick trip over the mountain heights. She has also explored Barro Colorado, Panama Canal Zone, on three different visits, the first time when Dr. Frank Chapman was making his enthusiastic presence felt there. Once when on a trip along the west coast of South America her ship docked at night in a southern Chilean harbor, where in the darkness she could hear great numbers of Inca terns that had perched on the pilings just a few feet away, but she had to wait for daybreak to determine the species. Many times Miss Hunnewell's travels have taken her to the West Indies, as well as to most of the countries of Central America — but she has yet to see her first quetzal. Her next trip, she tells us, will be to the Island of Tobago, but a dream yet to be realized is a journey that will take her through the Straits of Magellan to the Falkland Islands, there to see the interesting species of penguins so well described in Dr. Murphy's *Oceanic Birds*.

Botany and horticulture have shared her interest with the birds, and while the Hunnewell family has been interested for many years in horticulture, our director feels that her greatest horticultural achievement has been the successful growing of the mayflower, the Massachusetts State Flower, in her garden.

Miss Hunnewell is keenly interested in whatever promotes the welfare of children or adults. This is attested by the fact that for about forty years she has served as a director of the Children's Aid Society. She is also a trustee of the Newton-Wellesley Hospital and a member of the board of directors of Norfolk House. She keeps up an exchange of garden information through the Noanett Garden Club and is also active in the Unitarian Church of South Natick.

Thumbnail Sketches of Our Directors



MRS. LAWRENCE K. MILLER, of Pittsfield, came to us from the land of the longhorns, for she was born Amy Elizabeth Williams in El Paso, Texas, May 4, 1912. Her family moved to Worcester when she was five years old, and there she attended the Bancroft School. Later she was graduated from Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. She traveled in Italy, France, and Switzerland in 1928 and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris in 1931 and 1932. In 1933 she was married to Lawrence K. Miller, of Pittsfield, the editor-owner of the Pittsfield Eagle, and both Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been immersed in community and national affairs ever since. They have four children — Margo, Kelton B. II, Michael Gurdon, and Mark Channing.

Much of Mrs. Miller's early interest in birds and wildflowers probably resulted from the summers she spent in the country with her aunt, Mrs. Frank C. Smith, Jr., of Worcester. Mrs. Smith has long been a member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, has a fern garden of national reputation, and has presented many programs on ferns for civic groups, especially garden clubs.

Mrs. Miller early became interested in the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary and served on the governing board of the sanctuary until its acquisition by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and she then became a member of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary Advisory Committee. It was through the combined efforts of Mrs. Miller, as a trustee of the Berkshire Museum, and Bartlett Hendricks, Curator of Science at the Berkshire Museum, that the Audubon conservation classes were inaugurated in the schools of Berkshire County. Mrs. Miller, Mr. Hendricks, and C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, constituted a committee to direct the joint activities of the three organizations in the natural history field in western Massachusetts. Also, largely through Mrs. Miller's interest and that of Robert Crane, a vice-president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary was taken over by the Society in 1950.

Mrs. Miller has been a director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society since 1943 and has ably served on the Membership and Sanctuary Committees of the Board, at the same time keeping a watchful eye on the Audubon educational program in Berkshire County. She has also represented the Garden Club of America on the Massachusetts Conservation Council and at present is a trustee of Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield; president of the Berkshire Athenaeum; vice-president of the New England Home for Little Wanderers, Berkshire County Branch; a director of the New England Wild Flower Preservation Society; and has been appointed chairman of the Community Fund Drive for 1953-54 for Pittsfield, the first woman to receive this appointment. How she finds time, in addition, to manage a beautiful garden at the Miller home in the Berkshires is hard to understand, but somehow she does it.

Mrs. Miller has twice furnished material for the *Bulletin*, once, in 1943, when she contributed "Pleasant Valley Welcomes Audubon Co-operation" in discussing the joint educational effort referred to above, and in 1950 "A Sanctuary Is For Tomorrow" on the occasion of the transfer of Pleasant Valley Sanctuary to the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Nature Hours at Berkshire Museum Gain in Popularity

The tenth season of free Nature Hours for children was concluded at the Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, in early December. The programs, which are sponsored co-operatively by the Berkshire Museum and the Massachusetts Audubon Society, had an average attendance in 1952 of 240 boys and girls at each of the ten programs.

The Nature Hours have an optional competitive feature, and this year the winner of the junior high division was fourteen-year-old William Noble. For winning the fourth successive year, he was presented with a plaque and also with a year's pass to all museum events. This presentation, unique in the museum's fifty-year history, was made by Director Stuart C. Henry. Bill is an active member of the Hoffmann Bird Club and of the Griscom Field Club and has attended the Natural History Day Camp at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary. Grammar division winner was eleven-year-old Jack O'Gara, who also has attended the Natural History Day Camp at Pleasant Valley and next summer will be awarded a free two-week session at the camp.

Bartlett Hendricks, Curator of Science at the Berkshire Museum, is in charge of the programs. Assisting at the Nature Hours were Mrs. Richard H. Bailey and Miss Marjorie E. Smith, Audubon conservation teachers in Berkshire County.

Trail Clearing at Ipswich River

Trail Work Parties at Ipswich River Sanctuary, Topsfield, are scheduled for *Saturday, February 14*, and *Saturday, February 21*. Come when you can. Volunteer help is greatly appreciated, and members and friends are urged to come to the sanctuary any time throughout the winter and lend a hand.

From the Editors' Sanctum

How few of our readers really appreciate the many advantages accruing from membership in the Massachusetts Audubon Society! We know that you are justly proud of our record in the line of education in conservation and natural sciences; you may remember our past history of success in arousing public interest in the protection of our wildlife and the development of our natural resources; you probably realize that we serve as a clearing house for information of interest to nature-lovers and not to bird-watchers alone; you perhaps have patronized Audubon's Store and have found it well supplied with bird food, bird feeders, birdhouses, books, pictures, miniature bird carvings, records of bird songs, and many other articles which appeal to the nature-lover; and we hope that you enjoy and value each copy of the *Bulletin* as it appears from the press. But how many of you ever use our two libraries which are maintained for the use and convenience of our members?

Though the days are already growing longer as we write this, there will still be many long evenings when it would be pleasant to curl up in a comfortable chair and read for an hour or two, instead of watching a flickering television or listening to a raucous radio. Did you know that members can borrow one or two books at a time from the Elizabeth Loring Lending Library at Audubon House, and keep them as long as four weeks if desired? Did you realize that this library occupies thirty-five feet of shelf space and offers a wide variety of reading matter? Most of our more technical books are found in our Reference Library and may be consulted at Audubon House but not taken from the building, but the list of books in the Lending Library includes nature essays, travel books, biographies of naturalists, nature anthologies, books on conservation, and many other subjects of interest or importance to our members.

In his review of Edwin Way Teale's *Green Treasury*, in our January issue, Francis H. Allen makes the statement that in this fine anthology "Some New Englanders will miss Bradford Torrey, Frank Bolles, and Dallas Lore Sharp." No one of this trio was a great writer, but each one wrote charmingly about the everyday sights and sounds of our New England countryside, with occasional journeys farther afield. They are leisurely books, antedating the automobile and "birding by bus," as indicated by Torrey's titles, *Footing It In Franconia*, *The Footpath Way*, and *A Rambler's Lease*. But the birders of their day were not merely interested in "century runs" and beating last week's or last year's list in a game of avian golf. Instead, they were *bird-watchers*, intent on learning all they could about the birds and their natural habitats or surroundings. They lingered to munch a few checkerberries or nibble a black birch twig, to listen to the song of the cicada or katydid as well as that of the thrush or the Peabody-bird; they savored and enjoyed their outdoors to the utmost. Do you know their writings?

In the Elizabeth Loring Lending Library are eight or nine titles by Bradford Torrey; one has been taken out six times since the library was established, another four times, the rest only once each. Professor Sharp's books average a shade better, but Frank Bolles's *Land of the Lingering Snow* leads in popularity among the three, with a record of seven borrowings, and his other two volumes, *At the North of Bearcamp Water* and *From Blomidon to Smoky*, show four entries each. They deserve much more frequent use.

Among the earlier nature writers whose works are represented in the Lending Library are, of course, Thoreau, John Burroughs, and John Muir. A little later are books by Frank Chapman, Enos Mills, Dr. Townsend, Winthrop Packard, William Beebe, and Walter Prichard Eaton. And among the most recent are contributions from Sally Carrighar, Rachel Carson, Donald Culross Peattie, and Edwin Way Teale. There are months of good reading ahead of you if you do not know these varied and versatile authors, and these are only part of the names listed in our Lending Library. And, if you are looking for information rather than entertainment, there are excellent volumes on mammals, trees, flowers, ferns and mosses, stars and stones, insects and reptiles, based on observation of our many natural resources and attractions.

Why not come in and browse for an hour or so, or send us a thin dime for a mimeographed list of the books available for loan to all members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society?

The Editors

"So Much for So Little"

Winning Friends

No matter how excellent a product, how indispensable a service, or how commendable an undertaking, it is surprising how many people may remain uninformed on these matters — and frequently to their loss. That is why great efforts are made and huge sums expended continually to attract attention of the public by means of prize contests, radio and television entertainment, and similar devices. The public's interest must be stimulated and focused. Why, then, should it not be the pleasant task of our Audubon members to enlarge their influence for conservation by helping others to discover just what the Massachusetts Audubon Society is and does and in what a fascinating field it operates? Do you feed the birds in winter? Why not invite your neighbors and friends, or their children, to see the fun at your feeding station after a heavy fall of snow? It will be a new idea to many and may be their first step toward an interest in conservation. Perhaps you have neighbors who have been feeding the birds for years, but do they know of the opportunity to enjoy thrilling wildlife color films at the Audubon Nature Theatre? Do they receive our *Bulletin*? Do they realize the many advantages accruing from membership in the Massachusetts Audubon Society?

This month we welcome the following new members to our Audubon family, while we extend a glowing word of thanks to members stepping up into the higher brackets of support.

Life Members

**Schoo, Mrs. Clarence, Springfield

Contributing Members

**Foster, Miss Helen P., Beverly

**Lord, Edward C., Sterling Junction

**Richardson, Dr. E. P., Jr., Brookline

**Smith, Rufus W., Jr., Melrose

Tead, Donald K., N. Y., N. Y.

Supporting Members

*Collins, Miss S. Lucretia, Brookline

*Crawshaw, Miss Mary L., Newtonville

*Field, Miss Kate, Marblehead

*Fillebrown, W. Y., Woodstock, Vt.

*French, Mrs. David S., Boston

Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H.,

Skowhegan, Me.

*Griscom, Mrs. Ludlow, Cambridge

*Haight, Mrs. Sherman, Barre

*Hibbard, Mrs. M. J., Dover

Hinkle, Miss Jean G., Osterville

Howe, Mrs. Lloyd S., Concord

Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard D.,

Mascoma, N. H.

*MacDonald, Mrs. John D., Cambridge

Matteson, Paul, Cambridge

Morgan, Mrs. A. B. and Eaton,

Mrs. Janet,

Woodstock, Vt.

*Morrissey, Mrs. John T., Bridgewater

Morse, Mrs. Philip M., Winchester

Pickard, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn,

Dansville, N. Y.

*Transferred from Active Membership

**Transferred from Supporting Membership

Putnam, Mrs. Ethel F., Cotuit

*Shelton, A. C., Binghamton, N. Y.

Slosberg, Mrs. S. L., Brookline

Active Members

Allison, F. E., Cohasset

Arnold, Fred W., Canton

Arnold, Mrs. Robert, Marblehead

Atcheson, Miss Mary, Amherst

Baisly, Mrs. Clair, Chatham

Barlow, Miss Elva M., Boston

Bars, John S., Andover

Bennett, Court, Danvers

Bockmann, Ingolf V., Belmont

Borst, George H., Philadelphia, Pa.

Bradlee, Mrs. E. Abbot, Winchester

Bullard, Gardner W., Jr., Chestnut Hill

Burgess, Mrs. Lauren M., Lexington

Carroll, Mrs. Rose F., Springfield

Chapin, Mrs. Lowell M., Westford

Chapman, Miss Frederika S., S. Hamilton

Chapman, Miss Helen, S. Hamilton

Clark, Mrs. Ethel A., Pepperell

Clarke, William C., Sr., Cornwall, Conn.

Cluett, Miss Ellen, Milton

Coffin, Miss Priscilla Jane, Rowley

Connors, Miss Mary J., Medfield

Cook, Rev. John W., Winchester

Corey, Mrs. William H., Lancaster

Crocker, Mrs. Goodhue, Wellesley

Cushman, Mrs. S. F.,

Little Compton, R. I.

Dane, Miss Betsy, Brookline

Dodge, Louis A., Wenham

Downs, Mrs. James R.,

S. Londonderry, Vt.

- Dran, Theodore J., Milton
 Ewing, G. C., Durham, N. H.
 Fletcher, Mrs. R. Andrew, Jr., Tyngsborough
 Follett, Miss Helena C., Auburndale
 Foster, Maxwell E., Ipswich
 Fowler, Charles W., S. Braintree
 Friel, Theodore, Pittsfield
 Garritt, Miss Harriett B., Cambridge
 Gavin, Miss Agnes J., Sharon
 Gildersleeve, Mrs. Stephen E., S. Shaftsbury, Vt.
 Gladwin, Leland L., Jr., N. Weymouth
 Greason, Stephen B., Weston
 Greenwood, Richard N., Plymouth
 Grundy, Mrs. John W., Milton
 Hall, Mrs. Richard, Winchendon
 Hancock, Mrs. C. Wayne, Colebrook, N. H.
 Hanson, Mrs. Donald, Hardwick
 Hartman, D. Stanwood, Cambridge
 Hathaway, Mrs. Louise, Brockton
 Heller, William John, Needham
 Higgins, Mrs. Edwin C., New Bedford
 Hynes, Francis X., Nutting Lake
 Jackson, Richard, Medford
 Kennison, Frank, Beverly
 Kessler, Mrs. Joseph F., Canton
 Langley, Mrs. Herbert F., Randolph
 Leavitt, Milton A., Newburyport
 Lemmon, Robert S., Wilton, Conn.
 Lentell, Miss Edna, Canton
 Loew, James B., Newtonville
 Luce, Mrs. Dean S., Canton
 Mahoney, Miss Gladys E., Belmont
 Mar, James W., Concord
 Marrett, E. H., Cambridge
 Martin, Louis H., Concord
 McKay, Mrs. Preston, Holbrook
 McMahon, Paul B., Dorchester
 Moller, Miss Cynthia, Concord
 Monteux, Mrs. Pierre, Hancock, Me.
 Morgan, Mrs. Weld, Worcester
 Morse, Mrs. George H., Winchester
 Morton, Mrs. N. J., Maynard
 Nusar, Mrs. Joseph, Wakefield
 Pan, Chiatung, Boston
 Pierce, Mrs. Walter E., Milton
 Pratt, Mrs. Alice B., Brookline
 Proctor, Mrs. George N., Boston
 Reed, Mrs. Kenneth E., Canton
 Richards, Mrs. A. Perry, Plymouth
 Showalter, Arthur H., Williamsburg
 Sliwa, Miss Elizabeth, Roxbury
 Spencer, Miss Ruth I., Danvers
 Stauffer, John C., Jamaica Plain
 Stevens, Miss Jane S., Needham
 Tinglof, Mrs. Carl, Canton
 Tolman, Mrs. William A., Wayland
 Tomb, Dr. E. H., Framingham Ctr.
 Turner, Mrs. Jay H., Quebec, Canada
 Upham, Mrs. Louise M., Canton
 Wasserboehr, Miss Harriet P., Dorchester
 Weinberg, Mrs. Dudley, Brookline
 Wilcox, Roy C., Meriden, Conn.
 Wilson, Irving H., Lynnfield Ctr.
 Woodman, Miss Ruth B., Newton

News of Bird Clubs

February 7 is the one day in the month when the ALLEN BIRD CLUB members come out of hibernation and brave the ice and snow to catch a glimpse of Snow Buntings in the Norwich Hill area, a Snowy Owl perched atop a pole at the Northampton airport, or a Shrike hunting for a warm dinner in Old Hadley. Mrs. J. Edward Hyde led a successful trip last year and will again be the leader for this season. On December 8 Percy E. Fellows, of Hartford, Connecticut, was guest speaker, delighting the club with several reels of color film, largely of birds to be found in the Connecticut River Valley, also some beautiful shots of Bonaventure Island and its bird life. On February 9 Dr. John W. Brainerd is to conduct a quiz contest, one of those embarrassing evenings when one proves one knows next to nothing about birds.

At the meeting of the HOFFMANN BIRD CLUB on Saturday, February 28, the junior members of the club will be in charge of the program. The club meets regularly at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield.

On Thursday, February 19, the FORBUSH BIRD CLUB will hold its regular meeting at the Natural History Museum in Worcester at 7:30 P.M. "Winter Birds" will be the subject of the discussion. Last minute plans will be made for the Sinclair Bird Festival in March, the first program of which, on March 4, will be "Earthquake Lake," by Karl Maslowski, and the second and last program, on March 27, will be "Jungle Wild Life in British Guiana," by Dick Bird. These programs will be given in Horticultural Hall, Worcester, at 8:00 P.M.

During February and March the WATERBURY (CONN.) NATURALIST CLUB will arrange snowshoe and skating outings when weather conditions are favorable. The officers of the club for the current year are Miss Helen L. Stoddard, President; David H. Thompson, Vice-President; Miss E. Beverly Slack, Recording Secretary and Chairman of Outing Committee; Miss Florence Turnbull, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. Executive Committee: George C. Haig, Chairman, Rollo L. Hungerford, and Walter P. Green. Miss May M. Reing is in charge of publicity.

1953

WILDWOOD NATURE CAMP

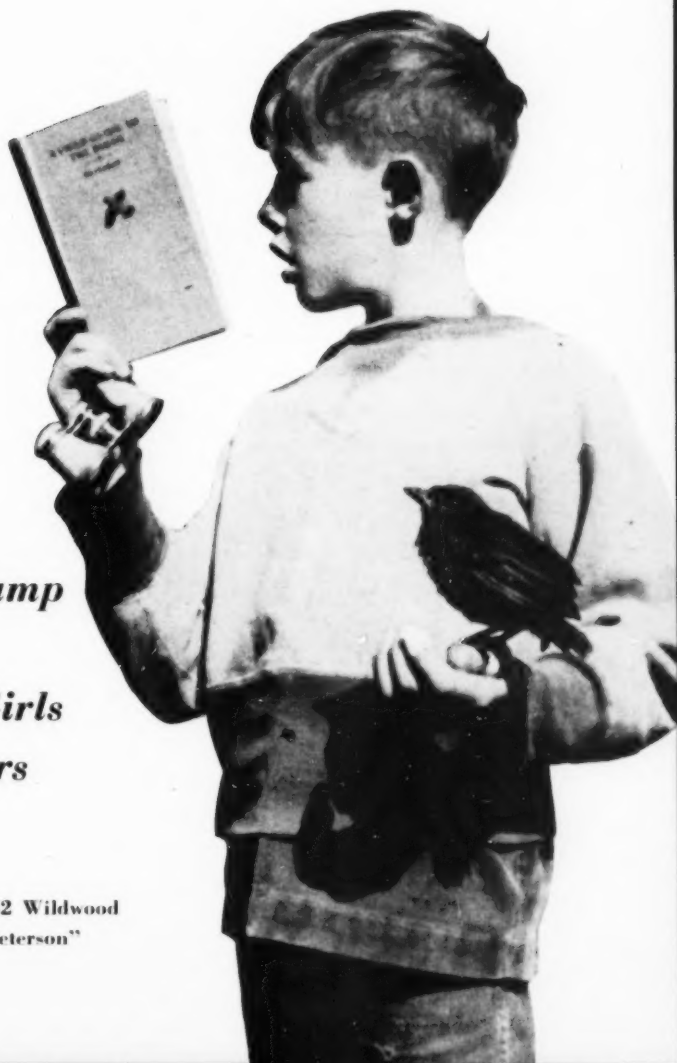
Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary

Barre, Massachusetts

Owned and Operated by the Massachusetts Audubon Society

A
Resident Camp
for
Boys and Girls
9-15 Years

Jeff Brewer — 1952 Wildwood
"He consults Peterson"



Location



**A Pet Hog-nosed Snake,
Wildwood, 1952.**

Wildwood Camp is located at the Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary in Barre, Massachusetts. Barre is between Athol and Worcester at the junction of Routes 122, 62, and 32. The camp is reached by following South Street from the Barre Common.

Cook's Canyon has 40 acres of meadow and woodland with a pond and gorge. Maintained all the year as a wildlife sanctuary, the area is attractive to many birds and other wildlife native to the region. A variety of plant cover and interesting terrain make the area ideal for encouraging enthusiasm and interest in outdoor exploration.

Facilities

Comfortable dormitory space is provided in the headquarters building of the sanctuary, with electricity and continuous hot water available. Floored tents that house four campers each are used by some of the boys.

Indoor activities center in the Grace Dickinson Workshop, where the small live museum and library are maintained. The Florence Read Dining Hall also serves as an activity center with its large stone fireplace and space available for square dancing.

Wildwood is operated in accordance with camp standards of the American Camping Association.

Health

The new kitchen in the Florence Read Dining Hall is equipped with modern equipment to insure sanitary food handling. A dietitian is employed to plan well-balanced and attractive meals. The camp doctor is located less than a block from headquarters, and available at all times for campers' needs. Each child must have an examination by his family doctor not more than seven days before camp opens. (The camp mails the medical blanks to parents two weeks in advance.) In addition, a superficial check is made by a nurse on the day of each camper's arrival. The children are carefully observed and checked for any illnesses during their stay at camp, and the camp program is developed with consideration for rest requirements.

Insurance on each child is provided for sickness or accidents originating during the camping period.

Program

All branches of natural science are program material. Projects are planned relating to mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, rocks, stars, trees, soil, and water. Exploration in the field, fun in developing the know-how of keeping pets, making collections, identifying birds, giving names to plants and trees, utilizing materials of nature for crafts and art — all combine to create a program that is adventure and fun for young people.

Swimming, hiking, camping, and folk and square dancing round out the camp program. Swimming facilities are available at near-by South Barre and the children are taken there for swimming three or four times a week. Frequent natural history excursions will be made to areas such as Harvard Forest, Quabbin Reservoir, Arcadia Sanctuary in Northampton, the Berkshires, and Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary at Lenox. A special program in nature art and crafts is being instituted for the 1953 session. Assistance is given Scouts who wish to work for natural science merit badges.

Arrangements

Session 1	July 5 - 18	9-15 years*
Session 2	July 19 - August 1	11-15 years
Session 3	August 2 - 15	11-15 years

*All boys and girls under 11 years of age will be enrolled in Session 1. Ages 11-15 will be accepted for this session if enrolled for the entire camping period of six weeks. Programs during Session 1 will be planned for different age groups.

One session \$100.00

Two sessions \$200.00

Three sessions \$300.00

For further information, mail the request blank on the back of this folder. You will receive a registration blank and the names of parents who will discuss Wildwood with you from their experience in previous years. Any questions which you may have about camp will be answered by the staff.



Bittern Nest at Cook's Canyon

Staff

Director

C. Russell Mason — Executive Director, Massachusetts Audubon Society

Associate Director

Mrs. Mary Lela Grimes — Director, Public Relations, Massachusetts Audubon Society

Program Co-ordinator — Miss Rachel Bruce, Associate Professor, Elementary Science Education, Fitchburg State Teachers College

Music and Folk Dance — Miss Ruth Reynolds and Miss Laura Reynolds, McGill University

Additional staff to be announced.

Visiting Staff

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Babbitt, Petersham. Reptiles and Amphibians.

Leslie Campbell, Quabbin Reservoir. Photography; water resources.

Lawrence V. Loy, Extension Specialist in Community Organization and Recreation, University of Massachusetts. Square and Folk Dancing.

Reno Raffanoli, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Soil conservation.

Dr. Hugh Raup, Director, Harvard Forest. Forestry.

The camping program of the Massachusetts Audubon Society is under the supervision of the Education Committee of the Board of Directors of the Society.

The following are members of this committee:

Clarence E. Allen, Headmaster, Rivers Country Day School and Director, Camp Chewonki.

Rosario Mazzeo, Personnel Manager, Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. John B. May, Former Director, The Winnetaska Camps.

Richard Borden, Chairman of Massachusetts Conservation Council.

Mrs. Maxwell E. Foster, Roger Ernst, Eric Cutler.

TO MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Wildwood Camp

155 Newbury Street,
Boston, Massachusetts

Please send an application blank and other available information about Wildwood:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE

Richard Alsop (1761-1815)

Hartford Wit and Bird-Watcher

By LAWRENCE B. ROMAINE

Richard Alsop was born in Middletown, Connecticut, on January 23, 1761, not knowing, of course, that he was to become the principal of the Hartford wits of Revolutionary fame, and later to appear in the *Bulletin* of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

He was sent to school in Norwich in 1774 and completed his education under a Yale tutor in Branford after his father's death. Although the *Dictionary of American Biography* and most of our histories of American literature picture him as a young millionaire, the truth is that when his father died, leaving a large family for his young wife to take care of, he was not even financially situated to attend college. His younger brother took over the large mercantile business, with its many unpaid bills and troubles, and Richard continued his studies of Greek, Latin, English literature, and natural history. He had no taste for business whatever. According to a letter of his sister's, he was "intensely interested in natural history and knew almost every variety of bird — I might almost say every feather." Confirmation of Mr. Alsop's expert knowledge of ornithology may be found in a paragraph in the introduction to Alexander Wilson's three-volume treatise *American Ornithology*: "I waited on a Mr. A. of this town [Middletown, Conn.] and by him I was introduced to several others. He also furnished me with a great deal of information about the birds of New England. He is a great sportsman — a man of fortune and education — and has a considerable number of stuffed birds, some of which he gave me." He is best known for his delightfully mild satire on current events at the end of the Revolution and during the first years of our republic. As by far the most gifted of the Hartford wits, he may most surely be called one of the Fathers of American Literature.

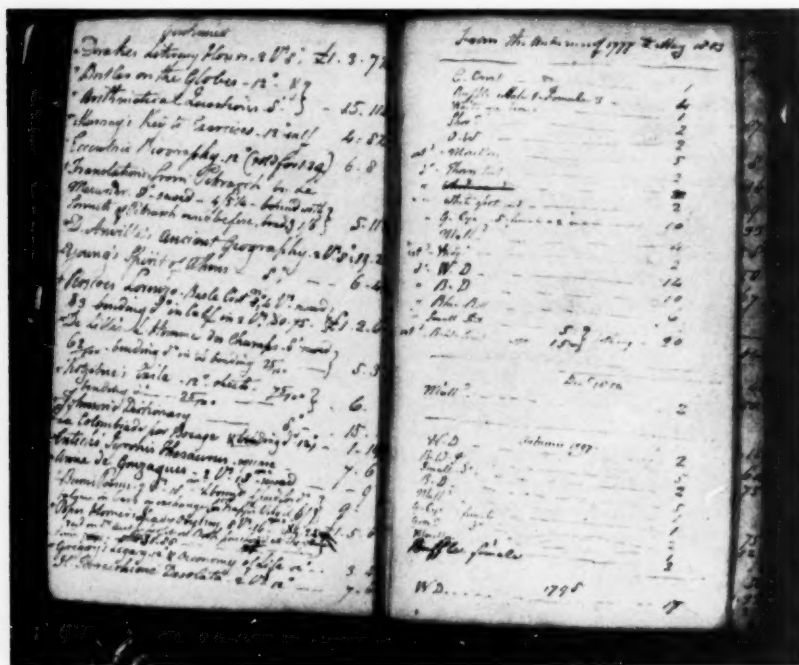
With this sketchy introduction in lieu of a proper biography, I shall leave to your imagination my state of complete satisfaction on recently discovering a small leather-bound manuscript notebook in Mr. Alsop's autograph. It is the bookman's dream to unearth hitherto unknown biographical and bibliographical facts about great men and women of the past, and this little bit of calf surely looked like an opportunity. I drove home with great expectations and a very smug smile.

Mrs. Romaine had spent the afternoon on one of her ornithological expeditions and had also come home with discoveries. She mentioned a new "life bird" and other additions to her 1952 list. I mentioned that I had found what I hoped might prove to be an important manuscript by Richard Alsop, which probably meant as little to her as her European Widgeon meant to me.

Mrs. Romaine has for years traveled about the country with me, patiently making the best of her lot. She has sat in the car waiting for hours while I scanned thousands of titles in attics, bookshops, libraries, cellars, and even barns — not to mention swapping yarns with other bookworms. Sometimes she has seen worth-while birds. Most of the time she has accepted these trips as a necessary evil, realizing that we do live on old books. On the other hand, I have tended our small bird sanctuary here at Weathercock House with equal interest and patience; from suet to peanut butter, feeders to houses, shelters,

and brush heaps, and thickets to baths. I am always on hand for any bird who comes to us for food and protection. My phobia is the hours, days, week ends, and weeks that are spent for the privilege of seeing just one small rare specimen. Yet I have been known to stand in our own kitchen for hours listening to tales of wasted time from enthusiastic birders! We work fifty-fifty, each accepting the other's insanity. Weathercock House comes first, but there I stop, and she goes on into the realms of true ornithology.

And so, on this day of which I write, she hid behind her pile of bird books and I behind my stacks of Americana in my den. I reverently turned the pages of the Alsop notebook expectantly and was soon completely oblivious to the occasional remarks from the next room, as "and it's a rare one too."



My random opening spread before me a page headed "Books Lost through Lending—belonging to R.A." Perhaps Mr. Alsop had loaned a volume to George Washington, and the President, even as you and I, had forgotten to return it. Whereas such a note would not have changed history, these small bits have a fascination for the bookworm quite inexplicable to the average human being. I read on, page after page of gifts to Connecticut libraries, trades, prices, and comments. I had just started to take notes when IT HAPPENED. The page was clearly headed (see illustration) "From the Autumn of 1777 to May 1803," but a "Buffle" was not a book or an author, a publisher or a library — it was a BIRD! Even I recognized the significance — Richard Alsop had been a "birder." Here was his list in black and white for twenty-six years!

It was my turn to call into the other room, with humiliation. We had a good laugh over it, and I must admit that I found the discovery almost as fascinating as his library, though it was a bit of a comedown to find my Revolutionary hero a mere bird-watcher; my Father of American Letters a "birder."

The illustration is self-explanatory, but I can't resist the temptation of trying my hand at deciphering the list for you, though I shall stand corrected on any proof of error.

Richard Alsop's List	As We Know Them (?)	No.
C. Crest.	(Can find no answer)	1
Buffle	Bufflehead	4
White eye brow	(Open to suggestion)	1
Shov r.	Shoveller	2
O.W.	Probably Old Wife, now Old Squaw	2
Morillon	Golden Eye, probably Barrow's	5
Thorntail	(Can't guess this one either)	2
White spot	(This suggests several???)	2
G. eye	Golden eye — American	10
Mall.	Mallard	4
Widge.	Widgeon — our Baldpate	2
W.D.	Wood Duck?	14
B.D.	Black Duck (what else?)	10
Blue Bill	Scaup Duck, Greater. Possibly Ruddy.	6
B.W. Teal	Blue-winged Teal	5
Goos'r.	(Goosander) — American Merganser	2
Lesser Goos'r.	Red-breasted or Hooded Merganser	3
Sprig T (ail)	American Pintail (?)	1
W.B.	(White-back?) Our Canvas-back	5

Considering the life lists of 1952, this seems indeed a small haul for twenty-six years. Perhaps it was because he had other things to do (one of my own favorite excuses and one of the very best) and perhaps it was because these were the only names he could find to fit what he saw. This is, of course, like the list itself above, only conjecture.

A few pages further on I came to the following and shall make no attempt to identify the bird in question:

"Description of a small bird shot at Hartland in June 1804, the female to which, killed in the Autumn of the same year, I gave to Mr. Alexander Wilson. The male is about the same size as the Purple Finch but of a much slenderer form, the legs longer & of a light brown or whitish — the bill, which as well as I can recollect resembles more a *Motacilla* than a *Muscicapa*, of a lightish colour. The back, shoulders, wings, rump & tail are of an olive green, much like the colour of those parts in the female of the Red Tanager — the breast belly & under parts of the body are of a handsome straw colour, brighter on the lower part of the breast and upper part of the belly — the head, neck and upper part of the breast are of a handsome bluish ash grey, called by the Mexicans a French grey, with a few fine black specks upon the head."

Unfortunately Mr. Alsop does not say whether Mr. Wilson identified and named the bird or not. I must leave it to you again. I doubt if I could name it with the best glasses that are obtainable if it were sitting right in the 1952 shelter — could you?

At this point Mr. Alsop turns his pages over to details copied from Shaw and Nodder's *Naturalists' Miscellany* (1790-1813). That he was a student and an enthusiastic one is certain. Since much of this may be read today in a library, I shall only list the names of the birds he took time to study. Some of them he undoubtedly did see, and hoped perhaps to see all of them:

Great Crowned Pigeon	Chinese Cuckoo (to which he devotes a complete page).
White Sheath Bill, from New Holland	American Goldfinch
African Bussbaga	Tooth-billed Barbet
Brazilian or Scarlet Tanager	Crested Tody
Wryneck	Crested Dominican Cardinal or Gross Beak
Golden-crowned Wren	Shining Creeper
Red Start	Western Duck—West Coast of Am.
Blue Red-Breasted. American	Warbler
Blue Bird	Woodpecker
Blue Warbler	Red Throated Gross Beak
Reed Bunting or Greater Reed Sparrow	Purple throated black Fly Catcher
Rose Coloured Ouzel, or Crested Thrush	Red throated Humming Bird
Barbary Shrike, or Butcher Bird	Superb Bee Eater
Common Sparrow	Speckled Manikin
California Quail	King Fisher
Crescent Starling, vulgarly—Meadow Lark	Bohemian Chatterer
Red Bellied Fly Catcher	Blue Titmouse

This seems to complete Mr. Alsop's bird notes, though of course I have left out pages of detail. Having studied traveling conditions in this period, I must conclude that Mr. Alsop saw most of his birds near home, as I see mine! I shall conclude also that he was a home student, who didn't waste miles on horseback hunting a purple-crowned Dodo but preferred to tend his own bailiwick, wear out his eyes reading ancient lore and scribbling with his quill pen just such nonsense as I enjoy studying. This at least soothes my injured feelings and makes up for the pages he might have included about his opinions of John Hancock, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin.

If I have whetted your appetites for further information about Richard Alsop, I recommend Karl P. Harrington's biography published in 1939.

Notes from Our Sanctuaries

ARCADIA. From mid-October to the end of the year 1952, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary ably played its role in the Massachusetts Audubon Society's program of protecting wild birds. The soundness of the decision of the Society's officers in recommending to the Chafee family that Arcadia would well fulfill their desire for a fitting memorial to Robert Searle Chafee also was sharply pointed up by the Sanctuary's ability to provide refuge and protection to the Connecticut Valley waterfowl population during the extremely long open season which lasted until January 3, 1953.

While apparently not generally understood, it is well known to biologists that a waterfowl population living in a territory as densely populated by man as is the Connecticut Valley must have a place to rest if it is to continue to occupy the area. Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary has effectively served in that capacity during the fall and early winter of 1952, dramatically so at times, as when the normal population of waterfowl was apparently augmented by storm-driven birds which very likely were shore-dwellers. Only some such explanation could account for the 760 ducks which flew out of Arcadia to feed elsewhere at dusk on December 23. This is twice the normally expected population.

The part the Sanctuary plays in the perpetuation of their sport must be appreciated by the waterfowlers in the Valley, otherwise the work of safeguarding the resting ducks would have been much more arduous than it was. One violation of the Sanctuary, however, was taken to the courts and the violator duly fined. The rank and file membership of the Society obviously

must share the deep sense of satisfaction in a piece of wild bird protection well done by reason of their support.

The open weather which prevailed during December was reflected in the birds recorded. Present long enough to be included in the Christmas Bird Count were three Bluebirds and two Robins. Davis Crompton and Robert Wood, who made the count, also found five Mourning Doves in Pyncheon Meadows and four Pine Siskins in the birch woods. The Great Horned Owl called at dusk, and a resident Screech Owl stuck his inquiring little head out of a Wood Duck box the following evening in response to use of an Audubon bird call. In all, 24 species and 537 individuals were listed in the Christmas Count.

A Black Duck which was found wounded in Pyncheon Meadows by Bobby Green, who lives near the northern tip of the Sanctuary, was given another chance to fly again. Picked up by Bobby and turned over to the Sanctuary, this slightly wounded bird was sent down to Forest Park, Springfield. Our Miss Beitzel, who released it, reported that it seemed content to join the other Black Ducks in the open water at Forest Park.

Two opportunities were presented recently to talk about Arcadia and its work to small local groups. People understand the nature and function of libraries and natural history museums. Usually surprise is evident when it is pointed out that a wildlife sanctuary has similar functions. It is usually also news when an understanding is reached of the long-term value of the unmanaged areas of a sanctuary as scientific check areas for comparison with manipulated and manipulated land units. Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary has a future! In common with all similar areas, it will become increasingly valuable as the years pass. Each New Year is not only a challenge to increase the Sanctuary's worth as a refuge and as an educational unit, but an opportunity to watch it grow in stature in both those fields. You are cordially invited to participate personally in these opportunities during 1953.

EDWIN A. MASON

COOK'S CANYON. Occasional snow flurries encouraged the Chickadees to seek sunflower seeds and peanut butter more frequently from the Sanctuary feeders, but to date there has not been a storm locally of sufficient severity really to bring in the birds, either at the Sanctuary or at most of the other feeding stations in the Barre area. Especially missed were the colorful seed-eaters, for the Purple Finches disappeared in November, and it was not until the 13th of December that the first lone Evening Grosbeak appeared in the maple tree in front of the office. By the end of the month it was customary to be awakened by the arrival of small flocks of from seven to ten of them at the window feeder. It is interesting to note that this year for the first time they show a preference for the window feeder — a new one added on the side of the house near the office. This particular feeder, a closed one of high design, is used in preference to the open window and lawn feeders.

Redpolls have been unusually common in Worcester County this winter, and the first record for Cook's Canyon was a flock of eight on the 10th of December. They were discovered by Davis Crompton in the scrub growth of gray birch, cherry, and pine near the pond. Another interesting visitor, observed by Mrs. Magee on the previous day, was a Northern Shrike which was pursuing an English Sparrow in the Sanctuary yard. We note that this is the second of the species recorded here, and that in neither case has the individual made more than a single visit.

LEON A. P. MAGEE

MOOSE HILL. Much of the genuine pleasure and enjoyment associated with the feeding of winter birds is undoubtedly derived from the fact that they present such a marked contrast to the generally lifeless character of the rest of the plant and animal world at that time of year. When many of the other woodland creatures are in hibernation or have retreated southward to more favorable latitudes, and the bare trees and a snow-laden forest floor attest to the lowest ebb of the plant world, it is only natural that we should be especially attracted to the feathered folk with their great warmth of color and action. The weather-defiant winter birds, with their buoyant dispositions and ceaseless flow of energy, serve to compensate most happily for the relative quiescence of the out-of-doors.

Always there are the birds that can be depended upon to visit the feeders regularly — the trays, snack sticks, and suet holders. They are the "steady boarders" that never fail to add interest to the winter scene. We have had them in goodly numbers during the past month on Moose Hill, and they include the omnipresent Chickadees, the Downies, Nuthatches, Tree Sparrows, Purple Finches, and Goldfinches. In addition to these regular patrons, however, it is the very occasional and unexpected visit of a particularly uncommon or "accidental" type that provides the observer with a note of special joy and satisfaction. The visits from these irregulars occur with a frequency that makes it impossible to predict from one day to another, or even from one moment of the day to the next, what new bird will appear at the feeders. As for several winters past, a small flock of Mourning Doves have been morning and late afternoon callers. Golden-crowned Kinglets, in contrast to previous winters, have been maneuvering themselves onto the peanut logs in increasing numbers. They lack somewhat the acrobatic finesse of the Black-capped Chickadees but are gradually learning how to assume the proper stance when mounting the pendant peanut logs. Two or three Whitethroats were still seen during the month, but more exciting as a rare winter resident was a single robust and rufous-hued Fox Sparrow that showed up repeatedly at the window feeders. More often this handsome bird was observed scratching about on the ground among the leaves or on the snow near the stone fence or under shrubbery. With each quick rearward thrust of his legs there would follow a brief pause for inspection, and then again another fast-moving bit of excavation. The tempo and manner of his search for food are alone a good clue to his identity, but he is certainly not lacking in the desirable attributes of color and spring song.

The new year was very young (January 2) when the first Evening Grosbeak of the winter made its appearance, a single female in this instance. She was observed feeding with avidity on the winged fruits of some of our box elders, and it was not much later in the day when she was supplementing her fare with sunflower seeds. For two days this bird was seen about the Sanctuary, but since then neither she nor any other representative of this boreal species has been observed. This is a condition in marked contrast to last winter, when large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks came early in the season and stayed late. What the remaining winter weeks have in store by way of Grosbeaks can only be speculated upon. In the meantime we shall not let the larder of sunflower seeds run low.

ALBERT W. BUSSEWITZ

PLEASANT VALLEY. The activities of a colony of Beavers have a very definite effect on the ecology of the area around the edge of the ponds as well as within the pond area. Beavers have very positive food preferences, as was graphically demonstrated when we made a tally of the food trees cut this fall. It was found that 90 per cent of the trees cut for the food storage pile were ash trees. The quaking aspen, which once abounded on the edge of this pond, has completely disappeared. It is the Beavers' first choice, but as it does not sprout from the stump (so far as I have observed) it was quickly eliminated. Thus in a few years the character of the forest type around the pond was changed by the Beavers, but the change is continuing.

Trees in the valley are available for the use of the Beavers only if they are within about 100 yards of the shore line, which now appears to be at its peak level. Beavers are rather heavy and slow on land and rarely go far from the water's edge. They even will make shallow canals to enable them to do less overland travel. Although on rare occasions these may be surprisingly long, the canals at the Sanctuary do not exceed fifty feet. A tally of the trees in the relatively narrow belt around the pond, which are near enough to the ponds for the beavers to cut, shows several small pockets of gray and white birch, which are of little or no value to the Beavers, and the rest of the area is dominated by black cherry and white ash, with here and there an occasional red maple or other species of tree. Actually, black cherry is the dominant tree. Few ash trees are big enough to reach up into the canopy now crowded with the spreading branches of the cherries.

A check ten years ago would have shown, I am sure, that the two dominating species were equally numerous and all the trees in about the same stage of development. As the Beavers have cut very few cherry and many ash trees, the latter have lost the race and are now being crowded out by the less desirable tree. Thus it may be seen that the Beavers are eating themselves out of house and homeland. If we had found that the Beavers cut 50 per cent ash and 50 per cent cherry, we might fairly safely assume that as the ash disappeared they would adjust to eating cherry, but as they cut less than 5 per cent cherry this fall this possibility seems highly improbable. For years people have predicted that the Beavers would depart from Pleasant Valley forever. This is the usual course of events, and it probably will happen here too. However, there does seem to be one ray of hope for extending their stay here.

Ash trees sprout readily from the stump and, given a little light, they grow up rapidly. For the past ten years or so the Beavers have been returning to old haunts to cut these ash sprouts back. Now with these areas being shaded in by many large cherry trees that were not cut, it seems that the ash will be shaded out of existence.

In the hope of keeping the Beavers on Sanctuary property as long as possible, we have undertaken a small management project which entails the removal of a large number of cherry trees. In the language of the forester, we are making a "release cutting" to give light to the struggling ash sprouts, that they may produce more food for the Beavers. With the help of Robert Crane, of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary Committee, considerable progress has been made already. Next spring visitors will have to examine a cutting carefully to determine if it is the work of a Beaver or one of his well-wishers!

In December the bird population at the Sanctuary is at a rather low ebb. Shortly after the 1st of the month the last of the Fox Sparrows left, as did

most of the Juncos, though a few are apparently ready to winter with our dozen or so Tree Sparrows. The front porch and window feeders are under constant bombardment by a large flock of Chickadees, accompanied by half a dozen White-breasted Nuthatches. Three or four Downies and a pair of Haries are regular feeders. At least a dozen Blue Jays add color and interest to the feeding activities. So far no Evening or Pine Grosbeaks have come near, and we look forward eagerly to any change for the better in 1953.

ALVAH W. SANBORN

IPSWICH RIVER. "Any Evening Grosbeaks yet?" This is the first question visitors to the Sanctuary ask in December. A flock of twenty-five or so put in their first appearance on the 14th of December and stayed through the next day, not to show up again until the 26th and then bustled about the feeders getting their fill and moved off. But not for long. I think they are about as dependent on us as we seem to be on them for their annual visit. Many Purple Finches, Goldfinches, six White-throated Sparrows together with the usual Juncos, Chickadees, Tree Sparrows, and Downy Woodpeckers, are faithful entertainment at the feeders.

A Great Blue Heron is wintering out on the bleak marsh. He can usually be flushed from his favorite fishing ground — the edge of a river backwater runoff.

Starlings have found our feeders, and though we hurl threats at them and make mad rappings on the windows to drive them off, we must admit they are a companionable lot, clannish and rather entertaining. They sweep down and clean out the seed and devour the peanut butter. How do they get the awful stuff down? Then back up they fly to the treetops with much twittering. They are the Charlie McCarthy of birds and perfect mimics. A few individuals possess good T. V. acts, being real acrobats. I have even looked up half expecting to see a Greater Yellow-legs perched, so perfect was the call. They are cunning and impudent fellows, at home everywhere. We find them in the cities, the salt marshes, the dunes, and in this inland farm country. They are here to stay. Why not enjoy them?

This is the season of the year when our many introduced conifers intrigue one. To "key them out" and learn them for the first time is rewarding. A mass planting of mountain pieris, *Pieris floribunda*, covered with clusters of buds, offers a promise of spring to these midwinter days. A few shrubs of the Japanese variety, *Pieris japonica*, with their rich bronze leaves, make a contrast.

Several splendid specimens of white oak, *Quercus alba*, are startlingly beautiful and majestic. It was from such trees, cut on Averill's Island, that the frame of the Sanctuary dwelling house was built in 1771.

On the quiet evening of January 1 a Barred Owl called from the island across the marsh. Inland birding has been slim, but a walk often yields Cedar Waxwings, a few wintering Robins and Golden-crowned Kinglets, here and there a Downy Woodpecker, Black Ducks on the river, Grouse, and Pheasants in the brushy areas.

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Watch the local newspapers for announcements of films in Worcester, Attleboro, the Berkshires, and Worcester County, or contact Audubon House in Boston or the nearest Sanctuary Director, for details and tickets in advance.

Reviews of Recent Acquisitions

BIRDS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS. By Roderick Dobson. Illustrated. Staples Press, New York. 1952. 263 pages. \$6.00.

Most Americans know the Channel Islands only as the ancestral home of the Jersey, Guernsey, and Alderney breeds of cattle. They are a pleasant and even fascinating little group of islands, just west of the Cherbourg Peninsula, politically British but geographically much closer to France. Their history is old, and they have remained isolated enough from the influences of the mainland to retain much of their ancient character and insular individuality. The islands are still divided politically into "bailiwicks," a term which remains elsewhere in the English language only in colloquial slang. Still largely agricultural in their economy, they are steadily becoming more popular as a resort area, famous for boating, swimming, and fine food, and their pleasant atmosphere (and the absence of income taxes) has of late attracted a leisure class of retired pensioners.

The bird fauna of the islands is essentially that of the adjacent mainland, with, of course, a few significant additions and omissions. It has been studied intermittently during the past century by visiting ornithologists and by a few resident amateurs, many of whom have published partial lists and short notes on the birds they encountered there. Although there is a fairly extensive bibliography of this nature, Mr. Dobson's book is the first inclusive and complete work on the birds of the area. It was the author's aim "to bring together in one volume the scattered records of a century, and . . . to make it possible to determine at a glance the status of any bird on any one of the islets . . ." In this he has succeeded admirably.

Each species is treated under three main headings: Distribution, Remarks, and Breeding. Under the first the general status of the species is given for each of the main islands (Alderney, Guernsey, Jersey, Sark) and its satellites, together with the pertinent past records. The "remarks" section contains most of the author's own contributions, his informative and interesting comments on field marks, flight, song, and local habits. The "breeding" heading is used only for those species "known or believed" to have bred in the area, for each of which egg dates, localities, and descriptions of nests and eggs are listed.

The book is essentially a carefully prepared and well-documented distributional and status list of the some 250 species of

birds that have been recorded from the islands in the past 150 years. It is not a volume for the rank beginner, for it presupposes a fairly adequate knowledge of the birds of western Europe and of England. The nomenclature and sequence of orders follow the standard of Witherby's *The Handbook of British Birds*, to which the reader is referred for detailed descriptions of each species. No attempt is made to solve the subspecific identity of the several Channel Island birds whose racial affinities are still in doubt, the Goldcrest (our Kinglet, of course), the Great and Blue Tits, and the Robin among them. The author states "in order to prove anything it would be necessary to collect long series of birds in each of the different seasons, a course both cruel and unjustified." As subspecies at best cannot be recognized in the field with any certainty whatever, they are of no importance in a book such as this, designed as it is primarily for the use of the bird-watcher.

The volume is attractively illustrated with excellent photographs of the various islands, showing the different types of terrain and habitats, the more famous sites of sea bird colonies, and some of the birds and their nests. Despite its repetitiousness, inevitable in the method of presenting the data species by species, the book is very readable. It will doubtless become the local bird-watchers' bible, which it well deserves to be, and it should stimulate and encourage further contributions on the subject from bird-minded people fortunate enough to spend time in the islands.

O. L. AUSTIN, JR.

EAGLE MAN: Charles L. Broley's Adventures with American Eagles. By Myrtle Jeanne Broley. Illustrated with photographs. Pellegrini & Cudahy, New York. 1952. xiv, 210 pages. \$3.50.

The founding fathers of our great republic selected the American Bald Eagle as one of the symbols of our young but fast-growing democracy. As such, every true American should feel a patriotic pride in preserving this impressive-looking bird, but alas! until very recently the eagle received almost no legal protection in the United States or its possessions, while prevailing popular opinion sanctioned the open violation of these few laws and regulations. Occasionally a voice was raised in behalf of our National Emblem, but it really took an outsider, a Canadian, to show us what was really happening and to bring the status of the Bald Eagle as a disappearing species vividly before many

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REVIEWS, continued

thousands of unthinking Americans.

Charles Lavelle Broley retired from business a few years ago and took up in earnest the bird study which had previously been his hobby. The birds of prey were a favorite group with him; bird-banding was an interesting branch of ornithology. Soon Mr. Broley became the world's first great specialist in the banding of Bald Eagles. Though most of us perhaps see, on an average, less than one wild Bald Eagle a year, Mr. Broley has now handled and banded well over twelve hundred birds of this species, he has climbed to hundreds of their nests, and he has photographed them and studied them, lectured about them, and written about them times beyond counting.

Mrs. Broley has written clearly and interestingly about her husband's activities, and this volume contains a great deal of information about the habits of our American Bald Eagle. Unless popular opinion can be aroused for the protection of the eagle, and the few nesting sites of today can be adequately protected, the outlook is poor for the survival of the species. Every real conservationist should read *Eagle Man*.

JOHN B. MAY

PLANTS OF THE BIBLE. By Harold N. and Alma L. Moldenke (N. Y. Botanical Garden). The Chronica Botanica Co., Waltham, Mass., and Stechert-Hafner, Inc., New York City, 1952. Sup. roy. octavo, buckram, 364 pages, 95 illustrations. \$7.50.

Apart from the significant role that the Bible has played in the development of Christian thought and religion and its impact on human history, it constitutes one of the most valuable sources of information concerning early peoples and their plant relationships. From the opening verses of Genesis, in a beautifully told account of the creation, to the final chapter of Revelation, plants and plant products are constantly mentioned in one way or another.

The plant life of the Scriptures is confined largely to that of Egypt, Arabia, and Palestine, but it is the flora of the Holy Land itself that is of the greatest importance. This most recent literary labor of Dr. Harold Moldenke and his wife leaves little doubt in the reader's mind that Palestine, with its diversity of climate and topography, sustained a richness and variety of vegetation that veritably made it "a land flowing with milk and honey."

Plants of the Bible should go a long way toward removing one of the major pit-

falls that beset churchmen and laymen alike in their consideration of Biblical botanical references — that of identifying the plants of the Bible with those native in one's own particular area. The "rose of Sharon" and the "lilies of the field" may be cited as examples of plants that have been often and variously misappropriated.

The authors' scriptural citations are drawn from the Authorized Version of King James. The chronology adopted is that of the so-called Archbishop Ussher. Even though employing the King James text in view of its status as "the most generally used version among English speaking people," the Moldenkes express high commendation for the more scientifically accurate translations embodied in the Moffatt and Goodspeed versions. Their praise of these much-improved versions is qualified, however, by the instances of misidentification and inaccuracies that even here have been allowed to persist. This reviewer does not have on hand a copy of the very recently published new translation of the Scriptures (Revised Standard Version), but it would be interesting to discover how much more nearly this version approaches the desired standards of scientific accuracy. In a book that occupies such a unique position in world history and literature, and which has by custom and tradition become so deeply enshrined in the hearts and minds of countless generations of peoples, it certainly is not an easy matter to hazard a change or modification of text, even when in the light of modern research existing error or inaccuracy is clearly demonstrable.

A work of this nature obviously entails a vast amount of research in a field in which the literature is very rich and voluminous. An appended bibliography of over six hundred references, plus supplementary notes, gives some indication of the scrupulous manner in which the author of *American Wild Flowers* and his botanist wife dedicated themselves to the present task. The problems of proper identification of scriptural plants and the rectification of past errors and inaccuracies is not lightened by the profound change that has occurred in the flora of Biblical times and that of today. Over the centuries man has transferred little of his ethics and concepts of stewardship to the land that has nourished him, and his treatment of soil and the existing plant life and his introduction of hundreds of exotic plants have combined to alter profoundly the floral complexion of the Holy Land. The authors point out the virtual hopelessness of ever attaining definite identification of all the plant references in the Bible but suggest



DON ECKELBERRY is one of America's foremost painters of birds. He has been a staff artist for the National Audubon Society and did the illustrations for the Audubon Bird Guide series, the recently published "Our Amazing Birds," and other books. Mr. Eckelberry has traveled all over the United States studying birds and has recently spent some time in Mexico. His home is in Babylon, Long Island.

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REVIEWS, continued

that continued research will undoubtedly clear up many presently unknown or doubtful cases. Their concluding thought on this phase of their research is neatly expressed: "In the final identification of the many still unidentified and the many more still disputed botanical references in the Bible, the help of King Solomon, who was reputedly 'Wiser than all men' and who was able to speak, presumably intelligently, 'of trees, from the cedar tree that is in all Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall,' would be of inestimable service!"

The main body of *Plants of the Bible* is devoted to a survey of the plants mentioned in the Scriptures, a total of 242 species. These are alphabetically arranged from *Acacia* to *Zostera* according to their scientific binomial. The introductory material includes a historical sketch and description of the Bible lands and serves to equip the reader with a helpful perspective and understanding in the use of the book and the problems of Biblical botany. Its use is further facilitated by the index to the Bible verses quoted or referred to and by a comprehensive ninety-column general index. A generous number of carefully selected old and modern prints illustrate the book and add much to its interest and attractiveness.

By training and experience both authors appear to have been admirably equipped for the planning and execution of this survey of the plants of the Bible. The material is organized and presented in a manner that makes this a volume that both students of the Scripture and of the natural sciences will want to have within easy reach for the genuine pleasure and information it conveys.

ALBERT W. BUSSEWITZ

THE POTOMAC VALLEY: History and Prospect. Published by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, Washington, D. C. 1952. iv, 44 pages. 5 maps, photos, etc. 75 cents.

This valuable little brochure presents the history and prospect of the Potomac Valley from the standpoint of the naturalist and the conservationist, but it makes interesting reading for anyone who is concerned with the past and the future of

our country's natural resources. Four of the five chapters have been previously printed in the *Atlantic Naturalist*, the bulletin of our fellow-society in Washington.

The late John Ely Briggs, Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa, contributed "Man in the Valley"; Bernard Frank wrote on "The Watershed Today"; Walter Slavik and Francis M. Uhler collaborated on "Where Are the Ducks?"; Edward N. Munne gives "A Look to the Future"; and Irston R. Barnes prepared the concluding section, "How Shall the River be Restored?"; while Shirley A. Briggs edited, designed, and illustrated the entire work most creditably.

JOHN B. MAY

KING SOLOMON'S RING. New Light on Animal Ways. By Konrad Z. Lorenz. Translated from the German. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. 1952. 199 pages. Illustrated. \$3.50.

The title of this charming book refers to a legend which tells that King Solomon "talked to a butterfly as a man would talk to a man" and to "creeping things and fishes" as well. Men did not like to credit King Solomon so highly, so the legend said that he did it by means of a magic ring; but Mr. Lorenz thinks it is not sporting or even necessary to use supernatural aids when asking questions of animals. One must, however, know what questions to ask. The book is a refreshing account of answers that animals have given the author, who is called by Julian Huxley one of the foremost naturalists of today.

The reader should be warned that it is a dangerous book, for he may immediately want to make of his home a small zoo in order to enjoy some of Mr. Lorenz's experiences. One can, however, limit himself to an aquarium "which does no harm," although more sociable animals are more fun. Mr. Lorenz writes more of birds than of any other creatures; and in and around his home they live naturally and not in cages. But in whatever manner the reader takes this well-written book, he is sure of pleasure and entertainment from the lively text and drawings; and he is bound to feel nearer to animals thereafter.

CORA WELLMAN

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From Our Correspondence

Miss Barraclough Enjoys the West

"Montana is a grand place — I'm becoming a confirmed westerner. The goose study does not begin in earnest until spring, but from March on I will be in the field most of the time. This fall I took a course in mammalogy that involved some fascinating field trips — a 3-day trip to Glacier Park in November on which we trapped Marten and Fisher and small mammals, stalked Moose and Mountain Goats and heard Elk bugle. Another week end had us helping round up some Bighorn Sheep for marking and trapping Elk for a winter feeding study in the Blackfoot Valley. It's an interesting life and beautiful country. So far we have had a mild winter, although there is plenty of snow in the mountains."

Missoula, Mont. Mary Edith Barraclough

Good Winter Birding in Essex County

"I just had to write and tell you about the trip I took yesterday (December 29) to Essex County. I think it was the best trip I have taken this year, as far as rarities are concerned. . . . On the way in on the road to Plum Island I stopped to look at 210 Bonaparte's Gulls fly about over the ice floes in the Merrimack. At the mouth of the river were thousands of ducks, with such numbers as 2600 Old-Squaw and 1200 Greater Scaup. . . . Upon arriving at the Coast Guard Station on the Newburyport end of the island, I saw 43 Loons, a Kumlien's Gull, one female Harlequin Duck, 14 Dovekies, and 3 Holboell's Grebes. On I went, down the island. Two Blue-winged Teal, 1800 Black Ducks, and 100 Canada Geese were scared up from the meadows by a Marsh Hawk. In one region I noticed a lack of land birds. I soon found that this was due to a Northern Shrike. After this spot the Horned Larks became more numerous. With the larks were 8 Lapland Longspurs. Near the southern end of Plum Island I saw a Snowy Owl, and a Pacific Loon in direct comparison with a group of Common Loons. The total Horned Grebe count for the island was 168, my all-time maximum anywhere."

Wellesley, Mass. Dave Freeland

Chickadees are Wise Birds

"We had placed three remaining sunflower heads on a shelf in the garage. One afternoon in November while we were away the Chickadees found them and devoured about one third of one. After driving into the garage we locked it, as usual. Then the fun began! Exasperated, the Chickadees tried to creep through a crack above

the double doors, or tried to crawl under the doors. Then one flew by the side of the building where it hovered at the window, scolding when it saw the heads inside. Peace and happiness reigned only after we obtained a head and placed it on the kitchen window feeder.

"Do birds recall and associate events? We took down the back porch screens. Then the Chickadees inspected the new clothesline, a bunch of dried bayberries and a new fish box airing on the floor before they repeatedly visited the window ledge where for two winters we had kept seeds. Within a half hour after my sister had put seeds in the new box and placed it upon the sill, the Chickadees darted under the clean clothes on the line, in and out to get their seeds. It was at least eight months since any seeds had been there."

Avon, Mass.

E. Mildred Crane

An Interesting Observation

"On December 8, a warm, sunny day, I was walking in front of my cottage on Loon Pond in Lakeville. I reached down to pick up a piece of driftwood, and, as I turned, two Golden-crowned Kinglets flew within twenty inches of my feet, completely ignoring me, and began their rapid, nervous feeding among the feathery weeds along the shore of the pond. The lemon-yellow stripe, shining in the bright sunlight, was very conspicuous on both birds. I followed one of them with my eyes, and as I turned back there was a male, with the brilliant orange head-stripe. Searching for the third bird — I could find none! For ten minutes I watched the pair, and the male repeatedly changed his head-stripe from what appeared to be the 'normal' lemon-yellow to bright orange for short periods of time. I thought first that it was the light striking the feathers at a particular angle, but the bird worked around me so that I got all angles of reflection, and this did not seem to be the answer. Nor was there any breath of wind stirring, nor did the artificial breeze made by the movement of the bird seem to be the answer. It seemed more as if a nervous reaction was the cause of the color-change, is if the feathers lifted or turned so as to expose the orange underlayer. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet of course 'flashes' his color, but having a whole stripe change color as if a Venetian blind were being turned was a new experience to me."

Dr. John G. Read

Professor of Science Education
Boston University

Correspondence

A Home-made "Doughnuteria"

From Farmington, Maine, Mrs. Dorothy Wirth sends us the accompanying photograph and reports on her interesting bird neighbors. The "doughnuteria" is made of wide-meshed wire netting and each cylinder holds a dozen or more doughnuts. A block of wood fastened at the bottom of the wire cylinder makes a convenient perch, and the tube is large enough so that the doughnuts settle to the bottom as the birds eat them away. Mrs. Wirth buys day-old doughnuts in summer from the chain stores at reduced prices, "ten dozen or more at a time, and it is surprising how speedily they are gobbled up. . . . If no cover is used the Chickadees go right down inside." Her neighbor Mrs. Bailey fried forty-five dozen doughnuts last winter, and a goodly proportion went to feed the wintering birds.

A Favored Feeder

"I would like to report some unusual bird visitors that we have had at our new home in Middleboro. On May 8 we had a male Cardinal at our feeder, eating sunflower seeds. Also, a Scarlet Tanager on October 4 — a Bluebird on October 10 — both at one of our feeders eating pie crust! On November 15 a Dickcissel arrived and came to the feeder every day for two weeks. Then, on November 24, two Baltimore Orioles visited our feeder, eating pie crust and dough, and as of this date (December 5) they both come every day. A pair of Chewinks appeared on November 3 and visited with us for five days — eating wild bird seeds ravenously. On many good 'birding days' this past month we have had in our yard and at our trays about fifteen different kinds of birds. A pair of Downy Woodpeckers are daily visitors, about 10 White-throated Sparrows, 15-20 Purple Finches, 2 Goldfinches, 6 Chickadees, Evening Grosbeaks, 2 Brown Creepers, 2 Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, Flickers, and the inevitable English Sparrows, Blue Jays, and Starlings. It was a wonderful experience this summer to watch our pair of Nuthatches feed their five babies on our kitchen window screen (just above our feeding tray). The young ones would run up and down the screen 'yaking' to be fed, and it kept the parents busy trying to satisfy their appetites. What a din they made! The Chickadees brought their babies too. During that time, more peanut butter was consumed than at any other time of the year. During the winter 1951, we held our hands out the window over the feeder and were able to get Purple Finches, Goldfinches, Eve-

ning Grosbeaks, and Chickadees to sit in them and eat sunflower seeds. We have spent many enjoyable hours feeding and observing the birds and know that our two little girls have learned a great deal and will always have a great interest in nature."

Ronald G. Thatcher

Field Notes

Additional records for wintering BALTIMORE ORIOLES continue to come to Audubon House. Two of the most interesting are from Miss Elizabeth Ball, of Rutland, Vermont, who reports the individuals wintering at Brandon, at the feeder of Mrs. James Leonard. One of these was first seen on November 15 and had been seen daily through January 15. Another, a duller-colored bird, was also present, December 20-30.

On January 14 a BRUENNICH'S MURRE was seen alive by workmen on the snow in Rutland, Vermont, and was found dead the following day. Apparently it had died of starvation, as all of the ponds thereabouts were frozen, although the rivers were open. Another Murre was reported by Miss Marion L. Smith, of Burlington, on Lake Champlain, December 12-26, and was found on the 26th washed up on the shore and badly torn by gulls.

The Society has found no use for the old water tower at Ipswich River Sanctuary, and plans have been made to tear it down. However, a CORMORANT found use for it, according to Sanctuary Director Elmer Foye, on January 13, when it perched on the top of the tower for two hours.

Twenty-six CANVAS-BACKS in one flock were seen at Lakeville on November 25 by Miss Virginia Armstrong and her mother.

H. Lawrence Jodrey, Jr., reports a female HARLEQUIN DUCK seen at Andrew's Point, Rockport, on November 11. On November 27, at the same place, he saw a BRUENNICH'S MURRE.

A HERMIT THRUSH visited a shrub (*Euonymus europaeus*) in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Wade, Stoneham, in the late autumn and was still present on December 23. Mrs. Wade writes that the bird came before the pods opened and would force them open to get the seed.

Dr. John B. May, of Cohasset, noted his first EVENING GROSBEEKS on January 9, three females. On the 10th there were two males and three or four females. A male COWBIRD appeared on the 10th. As usual, one or more SONG SPARROWS visit their feeders daily. Dr. May observed a GOSHAWK flying over his home on January 7.

Field Notes

Audubon House probably gets as many calls regarding the status of the CARDINAL in Massachusetts as of any other species. When these birds are found at all they are generally winter visitors to feeding stations, and we are glad to report that this season there has been a Cardinal in Middleboro and another in Pittsfield.

Paul Bradford MacDonald, of Winchester, saw an adult BALD EAGLE sitting in a tree near the Medford Boat Club on December 30. He was attracted by Crows which were attacking the Eagle.

Mrs. Fred C. Hald, of Stow, telephoned during the snowstorm on January 9 to say that thirty EVENING GROSBILLS had just arrived at her feeder.

Mrs. Kathleen S. Anderson, of Middleboro, writes: "Finding a CLAPPER RAIL at Plymouth on December 30 certainly wound up the year beautifully for me. I had such a perfect chance to observe him for some fifteen or twenty minutes that I haven't a bit of doubt that it *was* a Clapper Rail."

A female CARDINAL came to the feeder of Mrs. Stephen Hibbard in Pittsfield on December 19 and was present for the rest of the month.

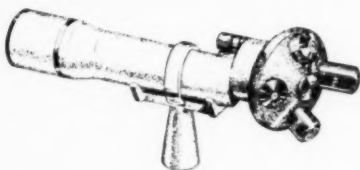
Harry W. Poor, of Georgetown, writes us that he had a pleasant experience on Christmas Day when a CEDAR WAXWING feasted on berries which had been used to decorate a piazza winter box. Perhaps the several cedar trees on the property helped to attract the bird.

Miss Barbara Elinore Hayden, of Concord, New Hampshire, writes us that the Christmas Bird Count in that region produced thirty-two species. She reported as outstanding birds for the territory in winter a GLAUCOUS GULL, a PIED-BILLED GREBE, and a PILEATED WOODPECKER. The Hayden feeding stations were attracting the usual winter birds, also Evening Grosbeaks, and it is hoped that Redpolls and Siskins will join the others before the end of the season.

Five EVENING GROSBILLS were seen in Groton on November 19 by Miss G. Gerrish, and on December 7 seven or eight were seen there by S. W. Sabine. Mrs. Francis W. Davis, of Belmont, reports three Evening Grosbeaks in her garden on December 26. While taking their Christmas Bird Count on December 27, the Hoffmann Bird Club saw 103 Evening Grosbeaks in Pittsfield.

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Field Notes

A MOCKINGBIRD was seen in Westport on November 16 by Dr. Norman Hill and Dr. Burton D. Bryan.

A late BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER was seen in Weston on November 8 by Mrs. Charles Brewer.

A FOX SPARROW with an injured wing was picked up on a downtown street in Boston on December 12 by Mrs. Herbert Fields and taken to her home, where it soon showed signs of improvement.

On December 17 Mrs. C. B. Stanwood, of Belmont, telephoned to say that a large flock of REDPOLLS was in her garden.

On December 18 Mrs. Roger L. Lyon, Barnstable, reported a female BALTIMORE ORIOLE eating wax off the bayberries. A few days later there was a similar report from a friend living about three quarters of a mile away. Mrs. Lyon also had a RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET visiting her feeder and feasting on peanut butter and fat.

A CAROLINA WREN was seen and heard in Eastham on December 28 by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Halberg and party while taking the Christmas Bird Count. The following day two of these birds were seen at Orleans by Mr. and Mrs. C. Russell Mason and party.

DICKCISSELS appeared at feeding stations quite frequently during the fall and early winter, including one found at the feeders of Mrs. D. DeGroff, of Amsterdam, New York.

Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald, of Birdhaven, Amsterdam, New York, is looking forward to another invasion of EVENING GROSBELLS this year. Last season she made the enviable record of banding 1381 of these birds, even though she spent much of the winter in Florida. She also had 111 returns and 110 foreign recoveries, a remarkable number.

A COWBIRD banded at the Austin Ornithological Research Station at North Eastham on September 12, 1947, was found dead near the feeding station of Allen W. Shelton at East Orleans, September 25, 1952. This was the second autumn this five-year-old bird was seen at East Orleans.

Lester R. Marland reports seeing seven EVENING GROSBELLS feeding in the middle of the road in Brookfield on December 18, and also reported that he still had a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW feeding at his place in Ware on December 18.

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Field Notes

One of the more unusual feeding stations at the Christmas season proved to be that of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lund, of Orleans, which produced many species for the annual Christmas Bird Count on the Cape. The Lunds had two BALTIMORE ORIOLES, two to four DICKCISSELS, a HERMIT THRUSH, a COWBIRD, several FIELD SPARROWS, three to four dozen WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS, and a good flock of MOURNING DOVES. Also, the Saturday before Christmas there was a WESTERN KINGBIRD feeding on pokeberries.

Mrs. Ada Clapham Govan, of Woodland Sanctuary, Lexington, has been having seven HAIRY WOODPECKERS (four males and three females) at her feeding stations. She says that sometimes there are three or four present together, but all have individual differences which make them easily recognizable. She also has more MOURNING DOVES this winter than last season — nine instead of three.

C. Russell Mason, in a telephone conversation recently with Mrs. Ada Clapham Govan, was delighted to hear Moses, the ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK, in full song in the background. It sounded pretty fine, he said, on a wintry day to have this glorious voice coming over the wire. A note from Mrs. Govan indicates that Peter has started to sing again, having just recovered from his first illness in ten and a half years. Once he sang for fourteen months continuously, except for three and a half weeks out for the entire body moult.

A KUMLIEN'S GULL was seen in Rockport at Straitsmouth on December 27 by Leslie Vaughan and Bennett Keenan. They also saw four DOVEKIES at Andrews Point and 150 KITTIWAKES.

On their field trip of November 9 the Hoffmann Bird Club saw sixty-one WOOD DUCKS. It was snowing hard most of the day, and the ducks were seen in the forenoon only.

During the month of November, Mrs. Lawrence B. Romaine, Middleboro, had some interesting birds in her garden, among which were COMMON REDPOLL, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, EVENING GROSBEAK, and DICKCISSEL.

The following interesting records of lingering birds on Nantucket were sent in recently by Philip B. Heywood: December 1, GOLDEN PLOVER; December 2, BLACK-POLL WARBLER; December 6, BALTIMORE ORIOLE.



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Field Notes

In Eastham, on December 29, Mr. and Mrs. C. Russell Mason and party saw fourteen **PALM WARBLERS** — three Yellow Palms and eleven Western Palms — feeding on a lawn. They were approached to within twenty feet.

An **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** was seen on Cape Ann on November 11 by the Harvard Ornithological Club.

A partial albino **ROBIN** was present in Waldoboro, Maine, from November 1 to 15. Miss Jessie L. Keene saw the bird on the 5th and noticed that the secondaries were all white, that part of each primary feather was white, and that there were three white feathers on each side of the tail. The remainder of the plumage was as usual.

Mrs. Charles L. Smith reports a **MOURNING CLOAK BUTTERFLY** in her yard in Weston on November 26.

Davis H. Crompton includes in his mammal notes for November an **OTTER** seen in Holyoke on the 20th, a **RED FOX** at Sturbridge on the 2nd, and a **WHITE-TAILED DEER** at Clinton on the 15th.

A **BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** was seen in Belmont on December 6 by Karl Zerbe.

A female **REDPOLL** came to the window feeder at the home of Miss Barbara Proctor in Somerset on December 10.

A **YELLOW-BREADED CHAT** is visiting the feeder of Mrs. Alice B. Pratt in Brookline. Mrs. Pratt says the bird has been there since January 1.

Miss Anne McCarthy, of Beverly, reported a **MOCKINGBIRD** present on December 21 and through the remainder of the month. The bird was quite tame and apparently had been in the area for some time. Miss McCarthy heard it singing on Christmas Day and among other imitations was the voice of the Yellow-legs.

Some interesting water birds have been seen in the Fenway, back of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. As of January 7 there were present two **BALDPATES**, one drake **PINTAIL**, and a **PIED-BILLED GREBE**. On Jamaica Pond two **RED-HEADS**, one **LESSER SCAUP**, and one **COOT** have been reported.

Mrs. John W. Jensen, of Milton, called on January 7 to say that twelve **MOURNING DOVES** were feeding on Audubon Moose Hill Mixture and cracked corn scattered on the ground under a tree. This was the largest number Mrs. Jensen had seen, only two doves having been observed up to that time.

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On January 5 Mrs. Walter Gropius, of South Lincoln, wrote that a female **BALTIMORE ORIOLE** had been present for several weeks, coming regularly to the feeding place and taking sugar-water, peanut butter, peanut hearts, and extracts from partly crushed sunflower seeds, which it seemed to favor. The bird easily held its own among the other species present, sometimes driving off several Blue Jays when they attempted to compete for her food.

From Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., we have a report of a flock of nine **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS** on the beach in Provincetown on December 29. Dr. Austin notes that they were all young of the year, quite tame, and feeding happily and actively. He watched them for ten minutes at 50 yards. He saw one down a 10-inch sandworm!

Field Notes

Mrs. Perry Howe, of South Harwich, writes that on January 15 the WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW which arrived at her feeding station on December 2 was still present. On January 15 a DICK-CISSEL was also present with the other birds.

Wilfrid Wheeler, who grows such beautiful holly at Ashmet Farm, Falmouth, Massachusetts, asks whether we can beat the collection of birds at his winter feeding stations, which includes HERMIT THRUSH, BROWN THRASHER, MOURNING DOVE, BOB-WHITE, and ROBIN, as well as SONG SPARROW, BROWN CREEPER, and hundreds of GOLDFINCHES. A TOWHEE was also present quite late, and since the ice melted on the pond many ducks have come in. Mr. Wheeler says that the Brown Thrasher and Hermit Thrush, as well as the Robins and Starlings, are living on the holly berries.

An invasion of PINE SISKINS this winter in Massachusetts is reflected further south, as we learn from a letter received from our member Mrs. Andrew L. Whigham in Century, Florida, which is just a few miles south of the Alabama line in the northwestern part of the State. She writes that their first Siskins appeared on December 14, but in early January the number had increased to several hundred, so many that they took over most of the feeding stations to the exclusion of many of the Purple Finches and Goldfinches usually present. Mrs. Whigham also mentions that she had four DICKCISSELS early in the season, and on November 30 she had a brief visit from a FOX SPARROW, an extreme rarity in that part of the country and probably the only November record for Florida.

R. L. Sargent, of Needham, telephoned that a FOX SPARROW appeared at his feeder on January 12 and was still there on the 13th.

Mrs. Ernest Crook, of Berlin, New Hampshire, wrote on January 8 that since December 1 she had banded 213 EVENING GROSBEAKS.

Mr. and Mrs. Eber Heston, of Reading, reported on January 13 that a MYRTLE WARBLER had been feeding on bayberries from sprigs which they had placed in their window box and also stuck in the snow. The warbler also was eating suet. On December 29 two BRONZED GRACKLES were at their feeders.

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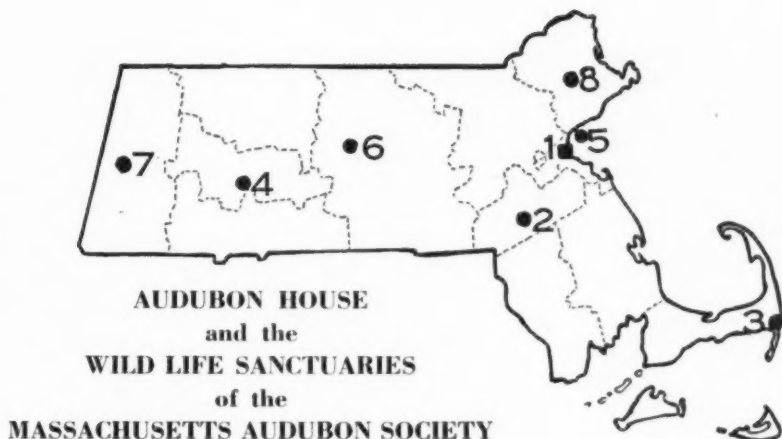
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